Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-165
Friday
24 August 1990

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FBIS-LAT-90-165 *24 August 1990*

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Cuba

Malmierca on Compliance With Iraq Sanctions

FL2308232590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Cuba officially communicated today to the United Nations that it will strictly comply with the economic embargo against Iraq approved by the Security Council. However, the Cuban Government criticized the U.S. military escalation in the conflict. The Cuban message is contained in a letter sent by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Malmierca states in the letter that since the measure was adopted on 6 August, Cuba has not carried out any direct commercial transactions with the Iraqi Government or organizations. Malmierca explains, however, that in accordance with the terms of the resolution approved by the Security Council, the Cuban authorities consider that food, medicine, and medical services are excluded from the sanctions against Iraq for humanitarian reasons.

The Cuban message also denounces the U.S. military escalation in the region. It states that this is directed toward making a reality of the hegemonic ambitions of the United States in that area by bringing a considerable number of troops and army, air, and naval assets into Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

As a result of the measure, Cuba has cancelled five contracts that were to have been executed after 6 August which concerned exports of textiles, rum and other alcoholic beverages, and agricultural machinery. Cuba's deliveries of sugar to Iraq under the existing trade agreement will continue, since this is a food and therefore an exception to the economic sanctions for humanitarian reasons.

The Cuban minister said that for the same reason, cooperation in the field of medicine and public health will continue in accordance with the agreements signed by both governments in 1978. Our country has a medical brigade in Iraq made up of more than 150 cooperative workers including doctors, nurses, and technicians in various health specialties. The Cuban foreign minister indicated that a small group of cooperative workers in other civilian activities unrelated to medicine will be withdrawn from Iraq soon.

Malmierca took the opportunity to reiterate Cuba's concern about the consequences the application of these sanctions will have for the battered economies of Third World countries.

Two Citizens Leave Belgian Ambassador's Residence

PA2308222090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Havana, 23 Aug (DPA)—The last two Cubans of the original nine who had sought refuge at the home of the Belgian ambassador in Havana left the building today, diplomatic sources from that European country have said.

Willy Leeman, second secretary of the Belgian Embassy, told the Mexican press agency NOTIMEX that the two refugees left the residence of Ambassador Louis Conrat "voluntarily."

The official said that the diplomats wanted to drive the two Cubans to their homes in Havana, but the two asked to be left on a downtown city street for fear of reprisals from their neighbors.

Prior to this, the diplomats turned over to relatives the four other persons who had "voluntarily" left the residence of the Belgian ambassador, and they announced that next Tuesday they would pay a visit to the Belgian Embassy "to maintain permanent contact," Leeman explained.

With the departure of the last Cubans from the Belgian ambassador's house, only 13 remain in the Spanish Embassy out of a total of nearly 50 who had sought refuge in different European embassies in the Cuban capital since early July.

Meanwhile, the Cuban Foreign Ministry reiterated that no Cuban who forces his way into a foreign diplomatic mission will be able to leave the country. It also repeated its promise that no reprisals would be taken against the refugees who decide to leave the embassies voluntarily.

Havana Reports 3 Citizens Leave Spanish Embassy

FL2308114090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Three other Cuban citizens who had illegally entered the Spanish Embassy in Cuba have left that diplomatic mission voluntarily and unconditionally.

Luis Monteagudo Rodriguez entered the embassy by force, armed with a machete, in the predawn hours of 12 July. This 27-year-old citizen, a habitual vagrant, had been sanctioned for speculation and hoarding in 1980 and for making threats in 1983. He has received medical treatment for alcohol abuse.

Miguel Angel Aldana Ruiz, 21, also a habitual vagrant, was sanctioned in 1987 for attempting to leave the country illegally, breaking and entering, and burglary. His half brother, Eduardo Magdalena Ruiz, 16, had difficulties in school and had been given an official warning by the National Revolutionary Police in 1989 for altering public order.

The Cuban authorities reiterated that all these citizens, as well as the others who have entered embassies illegally, will not be given priority treatment in the application of the immigration laws in effect in the country. [Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0911 GMT on 23 August in a similar report adds: "Luis Monteagudo Rodriguez, Eduardo Magdalena Ruiz, and

Miguel Angel Aldana Ruiz returned to their respective homes. Luis Monteagudo Rodriguez left the Spanish Embassy at 2130 on Tuesday and the two other individuals did the same yesterday at noon."]

Spanish Workers Ask for Political Asylum

FL2308152690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Police have evicted a group of Madrid residents, mostly women and children, from Santa Cruz Church in the Cerro Belmonte neighborhood where they had gathered to draw government attention. The order was executed by security forces in accordance with instructions given by parish priest Jose Maria Enrique de Salamanca, who called the residents the dregs of society and trash. The residents had been threatened by the City Council with forceful eviction. The group of Spaniards had planned to remain indefinitely in the temple until Mayor (Agustin Rodriguez Saun) met with them.

On another matter, EFE news agency reported that 64 workers from Pique Constructions, a Canary Islands company, asked for political asylum at the Cuban Consulate in Las Palmas, Grand Canary Island. These workers are faced with labor regulations that could leave the majority unemployed.

Medical Brigade Returns From Nicaragua

FL2308160290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The Cuban medical brigade that worked in the northern Atlantic coast of Nicaragua returned to Cuba last night. This unit, which consists of 26 health workers, responded within 48 hours to a Nicaraguan Government international call for assistance in dealing with the effects of floods during the month of July. Public Health Minister Julio Teja spoke with brigade members and conveyed Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's congratulations for their work.

In one month the Cuban physicians conducted more than 13,000 consultations, 122 surgical operations, and more than 2,000 patients were seen by various specialists. Cuba was the first country to respond to the emergency call in the northern Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua.

Malmierca Meets With Angolan Delegation

FL2408004590 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has met with (Armando Cadete), secretary general of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Angola, and other members of the delegation he heads. The delegation is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry. At the meeting, they discussed issues concerning the cooperation that exists between the Cuban and Angolan Foreign Ministries and exchanged views on the international situation. Both sides stressed the ties of friendship and brotherhood that mark relations between the two countries.

Vilma Espin Grants Interview on FMC Anniversary

FL2308180890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Interview with Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] and member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, by unidentified reporter on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the FMC; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] We are marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the constitution of the Federation of Cuban Women. Currently, more than 3.4 million women and others are celebrating this date with the satisfaction of having fulfilled their duty. They are now thinking about the tasks that must be undertaken with complete willingness, the tasks the revolution requires. The women now, tonight, and tomorrow will celebrate this anniversary.

We should also mention that a large variety of celebrations are planned. In all the provinces, here in Havana City Province and Havana Province, very beautiful activities have been planned. The activities have deep patriotic content. Women will receive awards for fulfilling their duties.

In addition, women of all ages will be recognized. The activities are aimed at women of all ages who have been conducting very diverse activities.

Castro Attends Ceremony

FL2408121290 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] The Cuban woman has won a place in history and is playing an increasingly important role. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made this statement during the ceremony in which decorations were bestowed on outstanding women from various areas of the national life. The 23 August Award was conferred on 12 women and men from our country while the Mariana Grajales Order was bestowed on Nguyen Thi Dinh, heroine of the Vietnamese people and president of the Vietnam Women's Federation.

The event took place at Cubanacan's Protocol Room. Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and president of the Cuban Women's Federation, noted the outstanding performance of Vietnamese women. The six health workers, who were imprisoned in Ethiopia where they were fulfilling an international mission, were among the decorated people.

Speaking to the press, Fidel noted the complete confidence of the country's leadership in women and the certainty that they will be an irreplaceable pillar in the difficult days ahead.

Castro Meets With More Baseball Players

FL2408115090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the Cuban baseball players who participated in the all-star game. After their triumphant return, our commander in chief said he was pleased with their performance in the first amateur baseball all-star game. Fidel told them a few anecdotes about his involvement in baseball.

He also said he was happy that Javier Sotomayor went back to the tracks. Sotomayor won the gold medal in the Linz tournament in Austria. Fidel also praised volleyball player Mireya Luis. Her presence on the team will be an inspiration for the Cubans who are currently participating in the world championship in China.

Inter-Carribean Affairs

Rights Group Condemns Harassment of Muslims

FL2308172290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1512 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 23, CANA—The regional human rights network, Caribbean Rights, has issued a strong condemnation of the harassment of the Muslim community in Trinidad and Tobago by the security forces following the recent insurrection. In a press statement here, the seven-member regional network said that it had received reports from Muslims both in Trinidad and Tobago and in Barbados of the alleged harassment as a direct result of last month's insurrection involving members of the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen of Imam Yasin Abu Bakr.

Caribbean Rights said that it was totally opposed to any form of harassment of "peaceful, law-abiding Muslims of Trinidad and Tobago because of the wrong-doings of others." It said that its attention has been drawn to cases of "totally unprovoked and unjustified acts of harassment" against members of the Muslim community, including those not belonging to the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen.

In denouncing what it described as "any campaign of hostility or witch-hunting against Muslims," who it pointed out constitutes a significant segment of the multi-ethnic, multi-religious population of Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean Rights quoted Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's recent statement to the media to support its position.

Prime Minister Robinson, currently in Barbados for "a few days rest," following his ordeal as one of the hostages during the insurrection, had last week declared that it was not a policy of his government that anyone should be harassed on the basis of appearance (a reference to the dress style of some Muslims) or religion, "but to the values to which they adhere."

Caribbean Rights urged in its statement that the security forces in Trinidad and Tobago "respect the fundamental rights of all citizens of the country", inculding, it added, "the utmost respect for the places of worship by Muslims." The regional human rights body said that no section of the Trinidad and Tobago population "should be made to feel guilty for the wrong doings committed by others now facing various charges and whose guilt could only be properly established in a court of law."

Representatives of the Barbados Muslim community, including Imam Daud Abdul-Haqq of the Islamic Teaching Centre, have also called for an end to the harassment of their Muslim brethren in Trinidad and Tobago.

Haiti

New Organization Stages Demonstration 21 August

FL2308145390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] There was a second demonstration held yesterday. This demonstration was to protest the high cost of living, hunger, extreme poverty, and everything the Haitian people do not like, said the demonstration's organizers. A demonstration of more than 1,000 people that began in Cite Soleil took to the streets at the orders of the People's Alliance, an organization that has just appeared on the scene and has not yet said where it comes from. It looks, however, as if many people who might have been involved in the 29 November and Saint Jean Bosco Church attacks were in that demonstration; and these people criticized the State Council, the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], the press, and so forth. Here is a reporter Jean Joseph Sanon.

[Begin Sanon recording] [Passage omitted] This demonstration, which its organizers said was against extreme poverty and the high cost of living, began in Cite Soleil and marched to the front of Perpetuel Secours Church in Bel-Air, where another group of demonstrators was already waiting. [passage omitted]

No sector was spared on this demonstration's placards. The press, the Church, the State Council, the Group of 12, and the executive were all criticized on the placards. The organizers of the demonstration, however, said they have nothing against anybody, despite all the things written on the placards.

We point out that this demonstration was called for by the People's Alliance, a brand-new organization. Nobody knows too much about this organization, which says it is made up of residents of the Delmas, Tokyo, La Saline, Cite Soleil, Linthau, and Bel-Air areas. [passage omitted] [end recording]

We point out that policemen in several vehicles were present, both preceding and following the demonstration everywhere it went.

Demonstration Noted; Alternative Government Sought

FL2308145090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] After the rash of car thefts and armed robberies at people's homes last week, during which more than five people died and a number of people were wounded, there was a big demonstration yesterday, a demonstration in which the participants carried red and black flags [colors of the Haitian flag in use under the Duvaliers, changed to red and blue in 1986]. At around 1300 yesterday, a group of people carrying black and red flags broke the windows of several cars in front of the Legislative Palace, which is on the Bicentennaire. The first vehicle attacked was that of Louis Dejoie, head of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN].

Yesterday morning, 21 August, eight political leaders were meeting at the Legislative Palace with the State Council and the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC] to reflect upon the current political crisis in Haiti. Thus, these people remained prisoners inside the Legislative Palace for a good while, because the enemies of democracy outside were prepared to stone them.

PAIN leader Louis Dejoie thinks the demonstrators were ordered to the Legislative Palace. He also thinks that it is not possible to hold elections in the current situation; and calls on the entire Haitian population, and the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] as well, to stop all electoral activity in Haiti. Dejoie will give us further details of yesterday's incident. [passage omitted]

[Begin Dejoie recording] [Passage omitted] At around 1130 or noon, a sort of Macoute demonstration by—well, you know who I mean—showed up, with black and red flags, chanting very significant slogans. These were Lafontant's people and people sent to do in the democrats.

Thus, in my opinion, this means things are going to start now. I mean, what is going to start now is the revolution. Because until we set these Zenglendos, these Macoutes, aside in Haiti, we will not have the peace necessary to make it to elections. [passage omitted]

I mean, if Lafontant, Regala, and all those people had been arrested, as per the arrest warrant; and if the police and Army had done their jobs properly, well, today they would not have trashed my car. [passage omitted]

A government of the people must come to power; Mrs. Trouillot must absolutely go, because she has betrayed the nation; and elections cannot be held under a system such as the current system in Haiti. Thus, it is all these things that we ourselves are deciding here; and within two or three days, we are going to mobilize the population, so as to have the new alternative come to power [passage omitted]

Thus, to all those people [presumably the "enemies of democracy"] we say: The uprooting is not yet over. We have only just begun to effect 7 February. And if the Army protects those people, there will be a revolt. The population will rise up against all those people who took power and do not want to let go of it, despite everything we are doing, democratically, to arrive at unfettered, honest, open elections.

However, as you can see, right now there is no propitious climate for elections. And the CEP must take this into consideration. And we are going to write another letter today asking it to suspend all electoral activities until the climate for such activities is favorable in Haiti, until there are no Zenglendo and Macoutes out in the streets to come and stop the Haitian people from entering democracy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Dejoie demands that Mrs. Trouillot step down and yet remain in Haiti to answer for all the deficits that have occurred during the time she was in power. She must not leave the country, as Avril, Namphy, Regala, and others have done.

Watchdog Committee Says Elections Not Possible

FL2308164590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constititution made a statement yesterday in which it notes that there is no possibility of holding free, honest, democratic elections in Haiti under the current government because of the way it is governing. The Committee thinks Mrs. Trouillot has been doing whatever she pleases, as head of the government, ever since the State Council said that it was not possible to have Mrs. Legagneur heading the administration of the nation's money. Since then, things have been going downhill, a total laissez-faire, with Mrs. Trouillot doing whatever she pleases; doing everything except what the nation expects from her.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Ever since then, Mrs. Trouillot has been doing whatever she pleases in the country, just like the Duvaliers, both father and son, just like Namphy, just like Avril. We have returned to an authoritarian dictatorship. What kind of results has this kind of executive yielded for Haiti?

Everyone can see that the country is adrift. There is no security, no justice, no gasoline, no electricity, no U.S. dollars. The poor cannot make a living. There is trash all over the capital because the interior minister does not want to pay city hall workers. Even the cemetary refuses to bury corpses. They [not further identified] do not want to pay the cemetary employees either. Everyone can see these things. [passage omitted]

Mrs. Trouillot says she is here to hold elections. It is not up to her to hold elections; holding elections is the Provisional Electoral Council's job. It is the executive's duty to provide proper conditions for the holding of elections. Where are these conditions?

We of the Unity Committee repeat: There can be no free, honest, democratic elections in disorder, with coups d'etat, with the country being plundered. This means that there cannot be free, honest, democratic elections under this illegal executive, who refuses to keep her word and whom the people no longer trust. [end recording]

Also, two members of the Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution, Mr. [Dr.] Patrick Elie and Father Antoine Adrien, have given their opinions of the government's latest communique, in which, through the Information Ministry, the government says it is in power to hold elections, and that it is open to dialogue with the political class. [passage omitted]

Drivers Union Calls for Ministers' Resignation

FL2308163590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] During a news conference held yesterday [21 August] on the matter of gasoline, the Public Transportation Vehicle Drivers Union of Port-au-Prince demanded the resignation of the minister of commerce and industry and of the minister of public works, transportation, and communications [TPTC]. [passage omitted]

Union president Cajuste Lexius, who spoke a lot about Commerce Minister Maurice Lafortune, said Lafortune talks about the gasoline matter all day long. This is to (?soothe) the population and the drivers so he can continue to collect big bucks for himself, as well as big taxes, and send lots of money to foreign banks so that when this government falls, they [not further identified] will have money waiting for them so they can go build big houses. [passage omitted]

As for the TPTC minister, he has turned himself into a (?greedy) super-minister [allusion to "superministers", under Jean-Claude Duvalier shortly before he left Haiti, who were responsible for more than one ministry at a time] collecting money from several different important Haitian institutions while neglecting his own work—for example the road problem in Gonaives that we just reported. [passage omitted]

Here is an excerpt of that news conference.

[Begin Lexius recording] [Passage omitted] The nation is like a ship adrift on the sea, with no one directing it. [passage omitted] We do not know what is behind this, whether it is the petroleum companies alone or if the Haitian Government is behind this too, because they might be harboring intentions to raise the price of gasoline. Because they know the unions are not going to agree to a rise in the price of gasoline, given the current situation, with everyone howling about how the roads must be fixed and complaining about the trash, the mud, and the holes vehicles fall into.... [changes thought] They know that we are, inevitably, going to disagree with them if they come up with a hike in gas prices. Thus, they have come up with this alleged shortage of gas so as to present us with a fait accompli. As drivers cannot find gas, they are sometimes obliged to.... [changes thought] In the provinces, we hear that some drivers are paying as much as 20 or 25 gourdes [4 gourdes = $1.00 U.S.] for a gallon of gasoline. Thus, if they raise the price to 12, 13, or 15 gourdes per gallon, the drivers will of course agree to it.

We, however, denounce this maneuver; and we say: Forget it! Regarding raising the price of gas, we are not going to be taken in by this maneuver. And if they are even thinking of trying this, we will fight them on it, and we will just see who wins. [end recording]

That was Cajuste Lexius, president of the Port-au-Prince area's Public Transportation Vehicle Drivers Union.

The unionists are asking for the ministers of public works and commerce to resign because in their opinion, it is these two ministers who are blocking the country.

Trinidad and Tobago

Charges Against Yasin Bakr Read in Court

FL2308192090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Aug 23, CANA - The treason and murder charges against the Imam Yasin Abu Bakr and 16 members of his Jamaat-al-Muslimeen who recently were involved in an attempt to topple the government here, were read in a magistrate's court on Thursday in their absence.

Prosecution attorney, government backbencher Theodore Guerra, appointed by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), told the court that the state was unable to provide adequate security to bring the Muslimeen to court.

The 20-minute hearing was held before a press corps, an attorney each for the Muslimeen and the state prosecution but no member of the general public. One defence lawyer said he only heard of the hearing on Thursday morning.

Chief Magistrate Melville Baird, who came to court under tight security, set September 3 as the date for the next hearing.

A total of 22 charges including murder, treason, arms and ammunition possession, wounding of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, national security minister, Selwyn Richardson, and Radio Trinidad employees were formally laid against the 17 Muslimeen. The lesser arms and ammunition possession and wounding charges were

also laid against the Muslimeen "in absentia". The 17 are charged with the murder of the seven people found dead in the Parliament building at the end of a six-day crisis in which they held Robinson and other parliamentarians hostage.

They are also charged with the August 1 death of government member of Parliament Leo des Vignes who died in hospital after being shot by the Muslimeen during the July 27 storming of Parliament.

Defence attorney, Jai Marine, told the court he had only been told of the magistrates court appearance Thursday morning, that the full defence team had not been selected as yet. He said that the Guyanese lawyer he represented, Doodnath Singh, was scheduled to arrive in Trinidad Thursday.

Only about a dozen reporters who came to the court building, known as Nipdec House, in upper Port of Spain, were admitted to the court while dozens of curious members of the public and Muslimeen members, were left outside.

The court was opened only for the Muslimeen case as armed police and soldiers kept watch around the busy Nipdec House area.

Dozens waited outside the court from after 8 AM to see Abu Bakr but their rush to the two Nipdec House gates ended in disappointment each time. First lawyers and then journalists were allowed into the court building after showing accreditation at 10:50 AM. Journalists had to show proper identification to enter the court.

The treason charge against the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen members that "together, they formed an intention to overthrow the government of Trinidad and Tobago" was laid first.

A batch of 13 lesser charges relate to the wounding of the prime minister, of Richardson, three Radio Trinidad employees, imprisoning National Security Permanent Secretary Reynold Fernandez against his will in the Red House (Parliament) and also imprisoning visitors to Radio Trinidad and Trinidad and Tobago Television during the coup attempt.

Government Joins UN Embargo Against Iraq

PA2308193690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1632 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Aug (EFE)— It was announced today in Mexico City that the Mexican Government will adhere to the UN Security Council's Resolution 661, which prohibits any type of trade with Iraq or Kuwait, beginning today.

In a decree published by the government newspaper, the Mexican Government pledges not to export or sell products from Mexico or other countries to Iraqi or Kuwaiti commercial agents, and bars Mexicans from purchasing any type of item from those nations.

The Mexican Government warns that the only products excluded from the embargo are foodstuffs that are sent as humanitarian aid, and supplies that are to be used strictly for medical purposes.

Meanwhile, a Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretariat spokesman who asked not to be named, confirmed that sometime today the Iraqi Government will provide safe-conducts to five Mexicans who have sought asylum at the Spanish Embassy in Baghdad so that they can leave that country. Mexico has no embassy in Iraq.

According to the source, notification of the five Mexicans' departure was sent yesterday afternoon to the Mexican diplomatic mission in Egypt, whose ambassador is accreditted before the Iraqi Government.

PRD, PRI Members Clash in Oaxaca; 20 Injured

PA2408121290 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Political party leaders have unleashed violent actions in Asuncion Ocotlan, Oaxaca. In a confrontation between members of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] and the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], 11 PRD members and nine PRI members were seriously injured.

As a result of their disagreement with last year's elections in which the outcome favored PRI candidate Huberto Venegas Aquino, approximately 20 PRD members are guarding the town's Municipal Building, which has been under their control. The incident broke out when the PRI group, led by Venegas Aquino and armed with machetes and sticks, turned up to evict the PRD members by force. The police stepped in, but the conflict still continues at this time.

El Salvador

FMLN Says U.S. Supported Counteroffensive

PA2308230390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2048 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] San Jose, 23 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 2,000 U.S. soldiers, including advisers and experts, were sent to El Salvador last November to stop the guerrilla offensive, Commander Ferman Cienfuegos has disclosed.

Cienfuegos, a member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), told NOTIMEX that Pentagon troops took control of the Salvadoran Army six days after the guerrilla offensive began on 11 November last year.

He said that in six days the FMLN succeeded in gaining a strategic advantage over the Army; therefore, the U.S. Department of Defense decided to send in troops from the 82d Airborne Brigade stationed in Palmerola, Honduras.

He added that the 82d Airborne Brigade assumed the war command and even used a computerized system to launch bombings against the civilian population.

Cienfuegos stressed that U.S. advisers participated in the bombing of Soyapango.

The rebel commander, who participated in the fourth round of talks in San Jose with the Salvadoran government to negotiate a solution to the armed conflict, added that the Pentagon even "has evidence concerning the responsibility for the murder of the six Jesuit priests."

The massacre in which Father Ignacio Ellacuria, five other priests of the Central American University, and two maids were killed was perpetrated on 16 November, when U.S. troops were already in charge of the military counteroffensive, Cienfuegos said.

According to him, the two U.S. military advisers who were trapped—together with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares—at the San Salvador Sheraton Hotel, held by rebel commandos, belonged to special units that had been sent from Palmerola military base.

He stressed that, despite U.S. intervention, the FMLN offensive had managed to break the political impasse in the peace negotiations. Cienfuegos insisted that the possibility of a similar action is not ruled out because it is "a mechanism of force that can be used as long as there is war."

The government and rebel delegations ended the fourth phase of the UN-promoted peace negotiations without reaching any agreement. The future of the Armed Forces, a crucial topic to resolve before the pacification process can advance, will be discussed at the next meetings, which are to be held from 13 to 17 September in San Jose.

Government Soldiers Attack Jesuits in Chalatenango

PA2308165890 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0008 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] News bulletin from Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to the Salvadoran people and the international community.

We report that troops of the 1st Military Detachment attacked two Jesuit priests on 21 August at 1900 GMT. The priests were travelling in a vehicle on the road from Chalatenango to San Jose Las Flores in Guarjila Canton.

2. The soldiers shot directly at the vehicle. The Priests John Cortina and Nicolas Alvarenga were in the vehicle. One of the shots hit the priests' vehicle. Miraculously, the priests were not hurt and took refuge in Guarjila's conventual house. The soldiers then shot at that house, hitting it six times. The priests are Jesuits.

4. [number as heard] We confirm that Lieutenant Regino Arce, chief of the North Commandos of the 1st Military Detachment, directed the attack on the priests John Cortina and Nicolas Alvarenga. We strongly condemn this repulsive attack on two Jesuit priests. It constitutes a serious violation of human rights and is proof of the Armed Forces' policy of persecution against the church.

Cristiani Rejects Disbanding Armed Forces

PA2408023390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2356 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani stated today that his government would not negotiate with the guerrillas the dissolution of the Armed Forces this coming September, but would discuss its restructuring in terms of quality and quantity.

"It is not logical or advisable to discuss the dissolution of the Armed Forces. At no moment will we agree to discuss its dissolution at a negotiating table, because it is a necessary institution that has specific functions within the democratic process," the president stated emphatically.

Cristiani harshly criticized the guerrillas' position on the topic of the Armed Forces and described it as a "setback and an attempt to create a propagandistic scenario to continue the terrorist violence and not fulfill the agreement on respect for human rights."

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) delegation proposed at the recent round of talks in Costa Rica the elimination of the Armed Forces, the demobilization of the guerrillas, the creation of a special tribunal to try and punish those responsible for more than 50,000 political crimes, and the creation of a new civil police force.

During a news conference at the presidential palace, Cristiani stated that "we are willing to discuss the restructuring of the Armed Forces, but at no time its elimination."

The Salvadoran Government and FMLN delegations will meet again on 13-18 September in San Jose (Costa Rica), committed to resuming the talks on the topic of the Armed Forces.

Cristiani accused the guerrillas of "creating" a climate to heighten violence, referring to its position at the negotiating table and its latest attacks against a garrison near the government house and other garrisons of less importance in San Salvador and the eastern zone of the country that resulted in troop and rebel casualties.

Asked about the military operations being carried out by the Army in the country's northern region, Cristiani replied that "as far as the government is concerned, it has not issued any order asking for accelerated military action.

The Army persists in its attitude of defending the safety of the people."

"We seek an agreement based on our humanitarian position and not out of fear of the FMLN," the Salvadoran president explained. The president was accompanied by Colonel Juan Varela, Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, both members of the official dialogue delegation, and Ricardo Castaneda, the Salvadoran ambassador to the United Nations.

Views FMLN Proposal as 'Setback'

PA2408042490 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0304 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said this afternoon that the proposal presented by the guerrillas in Costa Rica is a regrettable political setback for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], and it has provoked an impasse in the peacemaking process. However, the president reiterated his government's willingness to continue with the negotiations to attain peace in the country.

[Cristiani] *The FMLN is trying to generate a negative attitude among the people, to generate a feeling of frustration concerning the process.*

President Cristiani rejected today the 18-point document presented in Costa Rica by the FMLN, pointing out that it seeks to provoke the government and to create an impasse in the negotiations. The president said that this attitude by the rebels is a mockery for all Salvadorans who cherish peace.

[Cristiani] *The Government of the Republic feels that the document presented by the FMLN on the issue of the Armed Forces is a regrettable setback in the FMLN stand. We believe that in presenting this document the FMLN has tried to provoke an impasse in the peacemaking process.*

Even though no agreement was reached on the issue of the Armed Forces, President Cristiani said that military pressure by the FMLN would only harm the civilian population, and that is the only thing the government fears.

[Cristiani] *We are concerned about that, inasmuch as the Armed Forces are ready to safeguard the security of the population as much as possible and will continue to provide protection and security in the face of any offensive or any other type of action by the FMLN. Naturally, in the face of what could happen to a number of Salvadorans as a result of an irrational attitude, we are seriously concerned over the consequences the civilian population might endure.*

Commenting on the recent statements by Father (Jose Maria Tojeira), who is in favor of investigating three colonels whom he claims could contribute to the Jesuits' case, the president said it will be up to Judge Zamora to determine if it is necessary to interrogate the three military chiefs. The president stressed that the Jesuits' case has been handled in a quick and clear manner, and all available resources have been used.

Government, FMLN Comment on Negotiations

PA2408045290 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] The dialogue meeting between the government and the guerrillas ended in Costa Rica yesterday without any agreement being reached. However, both sides agreed to meet again on 13 September in San Jose, Costa Rica to continue discussing the military issue until a cease-fire is attained. The announcement came just as expected: Neither an agreement nor a consensus was reached.

[Oscar Santamaria, member of government dialogue commission] *We are not ready to announce any agreements at this time; however, the talks held in direct and separate meetings between the representative of the UN secretary general and each of the negotiating commissions have allowed us to pick up some pointers that may turn out to be useful when drafting a substantial agreement at the proper time.*

The nature of the topic to be discussed made it complex, but it was even more complex because of the differences in the proposals presented by the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] delegations.

After five days of talks, both delegations reviewed a five-point document on the Armed Forces. The only thing they were able to achieve was to learn of the positions of their opponent and the maneuvering room of each side.

[Santamaria] *The negotiating commissions are aware of the goals they set out to attain by mid-September. Their*

initial goal was to achieve political agreements for a cease-fire. However, we do not believe this goal will be reached on time.

In the document, both sides agreed to meet in San Jose, Costa Rica on 13 September. Although they admitted that during this meeting they were able to pick up a few pointers that will one day allow them to reach an agreement on the issue of the Armed Forces, at the end they accused each other of the slow progress made in these talks.

[Santamaria] *We want to blame the FMLN for adopting this attitude of bringing a document to the meeting when we had already made substantial progress that would have made it possible to reach initial agreements in San Jose. We want to tell the national opinion here in Costa Rica and the international opinion that we have the good will to work within this process with a positive attitude.*

[FMLN Commander Ferman Cienfuegos] *We have talked clearly enough, but clarity can sometimes be interpreted as being harsh because the government proposals are twisted. They are [word indistinct]. They twist concepts around. However, we are speaking clearly. We want the National Guard to be dissolved. We want the Treasury Police to be dissolved. We want the dismissal of the military chiefs who have ordered all the killings in El Salvador for 10 years. We are speaking clearly, and that is why it sounds so harsh, but that is the way it is because there is no other cure for the problem in El Salvador.*

According to the government, in the future it will depend on the flexibility of both sides, especially the FMLN. According to the guerrillas, the success of this negotiating table will depend on the U.S. pressure, the consensus achieved by the political parties and social organizations, and the rhythm of the war.

[Cienfuegos] *As for the offensive issue, as our comrades have already said, it will always be a recourse—a decision of the general command. They will wisely determine the occasion and the political opportunity to make the decision. That is up to the general command. They can give the order, but we can say that, according to our policy, which has been made public, we would have to wait for a political opportunity to carry it out.*

What will take place in the next meeting in September? First, they will continue discussing the issue of the Armed Forces. Second, they will review a cease-fire proposal, which was presented by the government to the mediator. And third, they will resolve the issue of the Armed Forces before going on to other points of the agenda such as the elections issue.

FMLN Regrets Civilians Wounded During Attack

PA2408005190 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1400 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Press communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, in El Salvador on 21 August—recorded]

[Text] The FMLN hereby informs the people that:

1. It deeply regrets that four civilians were wounded during the artillery attack by our forces against the CITFA [Armed Forces Telecommunications Instruction Center] headquarters.

2. The civilians were circumstancial, not voluntary victims. It has never been the FMLN's intention to harm the people. The known results of the artillery attack on the CITFA constitute a serious mistake in operational procedures, and we have therefore ordered the implementation of measures to prevent such an incident from being repeated.

3. It denies the Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] report to the effect that youth Juan Antonio Perez was killed, although he is, regrettably, among the wounded who are undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Guatemala

Agriculture Minister on 'Record' Harvest

PA2308194090 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2028 GMT 21 Aug 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan Agriculture Minister Carlos de Leon Prera reported today that record coffee and basic grains harvest this year will result in an increase of foreign currency revenues.

The official mentioned that coffee-Guatemala's main export product—will reach a 4.5 million-quintals production, 50 percent higher than the annual average of three million.

De Leon Prera added that the corn harvest will amount to 34 million quintals. This will supply the internal demand calculated at 28 million quintals, and the surplus could be exported to neighboring countries.

The minister explained that this year Guatemala will register a bean production of 3.2 million quintals to supply the internal demand of 2.2 million and increase the basic grain reserves.

Also, the rice production will be 2.5 million quintals to supply the internal demand of 1.9 million consumed by a population estimated at 9.3 million persons.

The agriculture minister said that Guatemala will take advantage of Brazil's low coffee production as a result of heavy rains and will try to improve the price of the product on the international markets.

Honduras

Presence of Unconventional Groups Rejected

PA2408004090 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 23 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] The Palmerola military base was built early in the previous decade in Comayagua Department in the central part of the country, with Washington's help. The United States has also permanently kept approximately 1,200 soldiers in Honduras for almost 10 years.

President Rafael Callejas points out, nevertheless, that he is willing to continue joint military exercises with U.S. troops, which have been conducted since the beginning of the past decade, and to promote rapprochement between Central America and Washington in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Callejas, a member of the conservative National Party of Honduras, also said that his country will "never" again be used as a base for unconventional groups that seek to "generate conflicts" in other countries, as happened with the Nicaraguan "contras" for almost a decade until their demobilization in May.

Callejas said that his government's "most important" decision was contributing with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro to the total demobilization of the "contras," who were based in Honduras from the group's inception in 1982.

Nicaragua

Pichardo on Dismissal From Air Force Command

PA2408003190 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Aug 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Dismissed commander of the Sandinist Air Force, Former Colonel Javier Pichardo, said last night: "I am not going to comment on my retirement" from the Armed Forces because of a gentlemen's agreement reached with the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) Military Council and Army Commanding General Humberto Ortega.

Pichardo made this statement during a telephone interview with Danilo Abud, of the radio program "Among Sandinists" [Entre Sandinistas]. The interview was rebroadcast last night on the "Without Boundaries" [Sin Fronteras] program on Radio La Primerisima. The interview lasted nine minutes and 30 seconds.

The former military commander was asked for his opinion on statements by Commander Daniel Ortega that he, Pichardo, had committed some indiscretions. Pichardo said that he does not know exactly what the National Coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] had said, but he described himself as a Sandinist and a revolutionary.

Concerning the announcement of his removal from the Sandinist Assembly (highest consultation body of the FSLN), Pichardo said that he has not been notified about this by the National Directorate of the FSLN or by the Sandinist Assembly and that he highly values remaining a Sandinist militant.

On Abud's insistence for details, Pichardo, whose record in the Sandinist struggle is imposing and who is now a civilian, cautioned that there has been much speculation "and this is a source of concern to me, but I am not going to get into that."

He said that "the right can use this situation, and we would all be losers." He shattered rumors such as those spread by the progovernment daily LA PRENSA.

He referred to the lie according to which he had ordered the arming of helicopters "to repress" strikers by saying: "Those who know me know very well that I would not repress the people."

When asked about his being proposed as candidate for a regional FSLN post, Pichardo was surprised and had to be spurred on by the interviewer until he answered: "I do not have any ambitions to occupy any post."

Finally, the former Air Force commander said that in view of the situation "we must remain prudent, because this sort of thing must be seen calmly, without taking sides. I believe we should consider the case closed."

Panama

Colonel Eduardo Herrera Explains Retirement

PA2308155990 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1303 GMT 23 Aug 90

["Exclusive" interview with Colonel Eduardo Herrera, former general director of the National Police, by Mayin Correa, director of "The Word" radio program in Panama City—live telephone relay]

[Text] [Correa] Good morning, Col. Herrera

[Herrera] Good morning, Mayin. How are you?

[Correa] Well, I am commenting on everything that has happened. I have called you because we want to know everything that happened. Tell us the full story. Please tell us the whole truth because you, I, and many Panamanians fought for this truth under a democracy. We must tell the truth always. As a former public employee, you now have full freedom to talk on this radio program. What has been happening with you Col. Herrera?

[Herrera] As you know, I was exiled to Miami, mainly because I wanted a true democracy for Panama. You recall all the threats I received from the government of Mr. Noriega. I believe that in spite of all that, me, you, and a large number of Panamanians feel united because of all trouble we experienced. You with your journalism and I, applying the only knowledge that I have, the

military knowledge, have tried to become organized in our struggle for democracy while in exile. I risked my life and that of my family. My mother was arrested and sent to the G-2 [Intelligence] offices twice. My father's small retirement account was frozen. My brothers were arrested, abused, and threatened with death as part of the so-called Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth campaign.

I wanted to retire. I feel that I am a man who has fulfilled his duty. I was an ambassador representing my country without having studied diplomacy. Ever since I was a cadet, my goal was to one day be the commander of my country's armed forces. I accomplished it despite the obstacles during my career.

I think that, and I mentioned this to the president, who was very courteous when he called me yesterday, that the way I was dismissed from the Public Force was not the most intelligent or objective. First of all, I am not a hoodlum. You have known me for many years. Everything I own is in my name. I have nothing registered under any companies. I have nothing to hide. Everything that I have obtained throughout my 25-year service career was obtained through sacrifices. Fortunately, when I was in exile....[changes thought] The pay that I received was good and enabled me to save money. Thus, I have nothing to hide. I mention this to clarify comments that have been made about corruption.

When I received the Public Force post, my instructions were that no officer involved in corruption or human rights violations could be a member of the force. Had I been involved in any of these two crimes, I would have rejected the post. I believe that the upbringing that I received from my mother was very sound. I never took any money from her because we did not have any money to spare.

Going back to the subject of this conversation, I honestly think that the way in which this was handled was not very professional. Yesterday's action reminded me of Noriega's times. The government should have waited for me to return to the country. Perhaps it was an error, or perhaps it was not a slip as the president told me. However, I believe that they should have waited for me to return. I honestly wanted to retire, but they should not have done things in the Noriega style.

Regarding the information disseminated by AFP, I think that one should not pay any attention to unsigned reports. You know me very well. Many people know me here in Panama.

Also regarding [word indistinct] accusations, you are a witness. I had to go to your house one night during the times of the G-2 persecution. I risked my life and asked you to help me publish an article in the newspaper EXTRA. In this article, I was being criticized for my actions on black Friday. I took the article to you because my intention was to encourage a number of Panamanians to continue fighting the dictatorship.

I think that I have explained my position on this, and I thank you.

[Correa] Colonel, I would like to continue talking with you. Retired General Ruben Dario Paredes said this morning that he knows or he thinks, I don't know, that you have been the victim of an internal intrigue that has been going on against you for some time. He had already said this in a public letter published the day before you retired or were retired. He sent that letter to this program, and it was published in the daily EL SIGLO.

Apparently, this means that Paredes knew of a plot against you. He announced that you were going to be removed, and he was only off by 24 hours. What do you say about this? Is it true that there has been an internal plot against you by politicians and soldiers who do not like you very much?

[Herrera] Mayin, I did not know about General Paredes' letter because I was in the United States looking for my children who have to go back to school. I do not know what the letter says. However, I can tell you that these events are making me wonder. I do not want to give my opinion because I do not think this is the best thing to do right now. I would like to do some research. I do not want to pass judgment if I am uncertain about something.

However, the way in which events have occurred are a disappointment. I believe that right now, when the entire government is going through a difficult crisis, the situation has not been handled in the best possible way because it gives the impression that there is more instability in the country.

I believe that the situation must improve here. We Panamanians must find a way to move the country toward progress. We should not waste time. Already eight months have gone by, and we have made little progress. I think we could have made much more progress. There are the 20 December refugees. Those people are facing bad times, and nothing is being done about it. I do not know if this is because we are not getting the support, since I am not familiar with the financial situation, or because we do not want to do anything about it. I do not know what is going on.

As I said yesterday to another radio station, I think that the crime rate is not solely attributable to more armed criminals, but also to unemployment. I am going to give you an example of a situation that I personally experienced. Recently I was assigned as a custodian at the residence of Mr. Beauchamp. When I arrived I saw a man who had just been arrested by two policemen. It was obvious that the man was not a criminal. I stepped out of the car and asked what was happening. The apprehended man told me that he was not a criminal but an unemployed electrician. He said that he had looked everywhere and that his daughter was ill. Yesterday, he said, all that his family had to eat was a bowl of Chinese soup that was shared by the four members of the family.

This man had stolen three window pieces. I asked him why he had stolen the window pieces, and he said that he stolen them in order to get money for medicine. He then pulled a prescription from his pocket. I saw that the medicine he needed to buy costs three dollars. I gave him the $10 that I had and told him to come to my office later to see if I could find something for him to do. Fortunately, I was able to find him work with a friend. Now he will be able to earn some money.

This is what has to be done. There is much unemployment, and this is the cause of increased violence in Panama. It is not that the policemen are faggots. I do not think anyone here has bigger pants than the rest of us.

[Correa] Do you feel offended by what the vice president has said?

[Herrera] I do not, because I know what kind of units we have there, and the entire government knows that once I had all my units assembled at Balboa Theater, we listened to the Never Again cassette so that our guards would never again return to the past. I was pained to see how our efforts to avoid confrontations among Panamanians were frustrated yesterday when there was a confrontation with students. This is not fair.

[Correa] Colonel, some government source has told me that you were involved in corruption, but not in the kind of corruption that involves stealing, etc., and that you were nonchalant regarding security matters and that you instigated some situations. There have been reports about you being involved in certain events, about a nonchalant attitude, and about plotting against your own people.

Yesterday, when Colonel Quezada was interviewed, he said something that caught my attention. He said something like now there will be security. Does this mean that he can provide security working with the same people that you did, while you were unable to do so?

[Herrera] I admire Colonel Quezada, who was my subordinate. I wish him the best of luck. He knows that I mean this because I am a sincere man. I wish him the best of luck. Let us hope that he will be able to control the avalanche that is falling on us. I am not Walter Mercado [a famous fortune teller] or anything like that, but he will be meeting people. I believe Mayin that you know what I am talking about, because at your radio station you listen to people who express their problems. Serious confrontations are ahead of us. Look at what happened yesterday.

The only thing I did, or tried to do, was to have the Public Force earn the respect of the people by talking to the people.

Perhaps this is the reason why I am being accused now. I was always in contact with the leaders so that if there was a confrontation, it would not have to be resolved through force, bloodshed, or birdshot.

Perhaps this was an error. If force is what is wanted, then it is possible to achieve it. You only need one unit to fire birdshot on a multitude and the people will start running, but the Panamanians have already endured difficult days. There are many people who have lost an eye or their eyesight and have marks on their bodies because of birdshot.

I hope that this kind of situation will stop in Panama and that we will be able to treat each other as we are: Panamanians.

[Correa] After changes were made that you placed under civilian control, did you feel as if your hands were tied in your job? How did you feel about this?

[Herrera] My hands were really tied up to a certain point. However, I do not want to comment on this because I do not want to start an argument. Each person has his own viewpoint, and I accept this because after what happened here, no one trusts anybody or anything. All we had to risk was our lives. Our lives were our families. You have no idea how happy my mother, wife, and relatives are now that I am off the force. Can you imagine how my mother would feel today, reading newspaper reports that students were shot yesterday? Apparently, some are critically wounded. My family has been relieved of all those pressures. Perhaps now I will have more time for them and for other things.

[Correa] Why did state security agents take you out by the runway when you arrived last night and not let you speak to reporters?

[Herrera] I do not think there was any ill intention. I was really tired. I had not slept much the night before. I arrived with my children. I respect the privacy of my home, and want others to respect it. My children are small. They were worried. I spoke honestly with them. However, they are 12, 13, and 15 years old. I wanted to avoid any interviews out of respect for my family.

[Correa] What are your plans now?

[Herrera] I am 47 years old. Thanks to God and my mother's prayers, I am healthy. I believe there are hundreds of things that I can do. I made lots of friends when we were in exile. You are aware that when we were in exile we made many good contacts.

I was a diplomat for about 10 years, when I was out of the country, and my perspective is good. I think I will stay in the country and view things as a spectator, not as an actor.

[Correa] Was there any reaction by members of the force, who were your followers, and who knew you for so many years?

[Herrera] I am very pleased, Mayin. I am leaving the Panamanian armed forces without any enemies. Many officers have called me in a sincere manner. I am grateful for their support. There were certain instructions to be

followed in case of strange situations. The troops immediately took up their weapons and placed themselves at the disposal of the president, as per their instructions. When things had settled down, they realized that the orders had come from the president. That was the reason for what we might call a minor incident, in which personnel loyal to me and the president approached the president, believing that the orders had come from somwhere else.

[Correa] I thank you for giving us this exclusive interview so soon after you were asked to retire. Is it true that you had asked to retire?

[Herrera] There is one thing that I want to clarify. Reporters used to ask me if I wanted to retire. If I said that I did not, they probably thought that I was saying the same thing as Noriega or something like that. If I said yes that I did want to retire, there would also be comments. Everyone wants to retire. I started out as a cadet, hoping to be commander of my country's forces, and I did it. I believe that I have reached my goal.

However, I had a commitment to the president. I have always said that the commitment would last as long as he desired it. He is the chief of the armed forces. I am satisfied that maybe I was not the pathfinder nor trailblazer, but at least I lead the way for the Public Force to work within the Constitution and to be loved and respected by the Panamanian people. That was my goal and I believe that I have attained it. I repeat, I regret that police are out in the streets again shooting pellets at the students. Perhaps tomorrow it might be the peasants or workers—I do not know who will be next. I hope these things will not happen. I wish Colonel Quezada luck. He is a capable officer. He has a difficult position, given these new instructions to repress the people.

[Correa] Colonel, I do not have a clear picture of why you were retired. Can you explain this to us?

[Herrera] I did not understand what you said Mayin. Excuse me.

[Correa] We do not know why you were retired. Did you have an argument with someone in the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] or with Minister Arias Calderon? Why were you retired?

[Herrera] During my 23 years of service in Panama, I think even Mango Verde, Rascapaila, Pelo en Pecho [aliases of criminals] were my friends. I never used my authority to abuse anybody. That is why you have seen many people defending me regarding Black Friday [Friday, 10 July 1988]. I never suppressed or beat anybody or used my uniform to obtain wealth illegally. I live off of my salary. I do not engage in unlawful activities. I am going to take a job that I have already been offered and will continue working like any other Panamanian here in Panama.

[Correa] You have not answered my question. We have no clear picture of why you were retired? What reasons were you given? Why...

[Herrera, interrupting] ...Honestly, I imagine that it must be because of the reasons that I was given. I was told that the two commands [not further identified] are being restructured. I think, and it is logical, that when I leave they will want to appoint a civilian to the Public Force. Therefore, I think that more than anything the reason is because a civilian is wanted as chief of the Public Force. This must be the wish of the people or somebody else's wish.

I do not know, because the assembly has not made a decision to date. A commission was discussing the issue of the Public Force. I told it that one of the things they had to have.... [changes thought] I said that I thought the commission had a tremendous responsibility because if it creates a Public Force that is weak and dependent on the United States, pardon, on the U. S. Southern Command, we will be leaving a tremendous problem for the coming generations. I said also that an important thing was respect—that respect is important. I remember that I was a very young officer, a lieutenant, when the 1968 coup was staged. It was because of the lack of respect by civilians for the National Guard.

Logically, the invasion of 20 December occurred because the military had shown no respect for civilians over the last few years. We do not have to include the previous 20 years in this. As many people say, those 20 years were not all bad. There were good things. One has to open one's eyes and look. What happened is that many people virtually lived inside a cocoon for 21 years. They are now out and living today.

So, one has to establish differences. Pardon me for telling you this. I am saying this with the utmost sincerity. You know me. However, one cannot build here. I worked honestly with General Torrijos. I spent six years of my life touring the whole countryside. I doubt any politician here knows the entire Republic the way I know it. We visited even the smallest villages, and we provided them with water, light, telephones, teachers, hospitals, and nurses. No one mentions these things. I think the good things must be mentioned too.

However, the bad things have to be mentioned also.

During the last few years, people were beaten, treated poorly, and humiliated. Men were raped in the jails. Those things have to be mentioned too. So, differences must be established between the good and the bad. One must not generalize and say that the 20 or 21 years were that bad because... [changes thought] Well, I had better not say any more.

[Correa] No, you can go talking. You know this is Panama's free microphone...

[Herrera, interrupting] No, I think that that is...

[Correa, interrupting] It is truly independent. Our only commitment is to the store owners, to whom we have to give a large audience and credibility, and nothing more. However, you can talk as long as you wish. We can continue if you wish. Dr. Cabal, the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, is here, but you can continue today because this is the topic of the day. Otherwise we can go on tomorrow, whatever you say.

Colonel, I am really imposing on your time. However, we would like you to give more details as soon as possible. We wish you... pardon? Colonel, do you know if it is true that lawyer Efraim Asvat resigned last Monday, and does this have anything to do with you?

[Herrera] No, look. I never had any conflicts with Asvat. I think I even told Dr. Arias Calderon that he was doing quite well. You know that getting civilians into the system is like introducing a foreign body into a system. You either follow the current of the system or the system rejects you. At the beginning, he was, let us say, quite, quite acceptable to the people there, and I think that he was doing quite well.

[Correa] Did you know that Mr. Asvat, the Public Force's director, had resigned last Monday?

[Herrera] Remember I was out of the country, so I do not know whether he left or resigned or anything. I really do not know. I do not think he resigned because I have also been told that he was seen in the garrison recently, so I do not think it is true.

[Correa] So then Mr. Asvat's resignation has nothing to do with the request, in your absence, for your retirement.

[Herrera] I really do not know Mayin. There is something else I would like to clarify now that you have given me the opportunity to be on your network, which is heard by almost all of Panama. Earlier they were saying... [changes thought] Do you remember when we were in Miami, and we all had to do something? We all thought that Noriega would fall within days, and it took almost a year and a half. I, having a family, had to make a small investment of $10,000 or $12,000, which I used for a house. That house, I would like you to know, has a 30-year mortgage on it. It is not a mansion. I would have liked to live next to Pantoja [Spanish singer], Jose Jose [Mexican singer] and Luis Miguel [Mexican singer], who lives on some island. But unfortunately, as you know, we had to practically go to a dark-skinned people's neighborhood in Miami. We could not even be with our countrymen because of the persecution against us, and especially me, since I was practically the leader of the military movement with other officers. So, I would like to clarify that for the Panamanian people. I believe that as a Panamanian... [changes thought] or anyone who is exiled and has the means, has the right to a mortgage for 30 years. I think I even sent it to you to look at.

[Correa] It is true, I did receive it. Col. Herrera, thank you very much, we will be at your disposal whenever you want to freely express yourself through this microphone that belongs to the Panamanian people. Good luck, and we will talk again.

Calderon on Police, Ford's Comment

PA2308183890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has said that four civilians turned down the post of director of the National Police. He said that they did so, not out of distrust, but for personal reasons.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] The candidates gave us understandable personal and professional reasons. The president and I regret that we could not obtain the services of one of them for the post of director general of the National Police.

However, we realize that they have personal and professional reasons.

[Reporter] Colonel Herrera implied this morning that he had gotten a bad deal and was told rather late about his dismissal.

[Arias Calderon] I have not heard his statements. The president exercised his full constitutional authority and that is all that counts.

[Reporter] How about Vice President Guillermo Ford's claims that the government and justice minister lacks the determination, seriousness, and will to curb the crime wave?

[Arias Calderon] I have no comment on that.

[Reporter] Will there be more retirements?

[Arias Calderon] The president and I will make all the decisions that are deemed necessary. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Supports UN Resolution on Kuwait

PA2408023490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Aug 90 p 1

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 22 August]

[Text] Panama's Foreign Ministry reports:

1. That in compliance with Resolution 662 issued by the UN Security Council on 9 August, the Republic of Panama will maintain its diplomatic relations with the State of Kuwait.

2. That there is no Panamanian diplomatic mission accredited in the territory of the State of Kuwait, where the Republic of Panama only maintains a concurrent representation.

3. That the Republic of Panama expresses its solidarity with all states deciding to maintain their diplomatic representations accredited in the territory of the State of

Kuwait after 24 August 1990, when, according to the invading Government of Iraq, foreign diplomatic missions accredited in the territory of the illegally occupied state must close.

Panama City, 22 August 1990

Foreign Ministry, Republic of Panama

Further Reportage on Student Demonstrations

Traffic Blocked Once Again

PA2308174490 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1721 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] University students from the group called FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front] have once again closed Bolivar Avenue and Manuel Espinosa Batista Avenue with barricades and are also throwing stones. Drivers are warned to avoid the vicinity of the University of Panama.

Problem at Institute Resolved

PA2308195190 Panama City Radio KW Continente 1901 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The problem that began at noon at the Transisthmian Highway in front of the Rubiano Institute, where students staged a demonstration to support National Institute students who were violently repressed by riot police yesterday, was resolved a few minutes ago. [passage omitted]

We learned that the nurse's station at Rubiano Institute treated approximately 10 students who were wounded by birdshot. This morning, these students confronted riot police from Tinajitas, police area H of San Miguelito District. [passage omitted]

In addition, we talked with a student leader from the Rubiano Institute. These students are demanding the readmission of the students who were expelled from the National Institute and the reopening of that school.

[Begin unidentified student leader recording, in progress] ...in the last 24 hours and the Education Ministry's attitude. The new regime's Education Ministry issued a decree, No. 160, that bans any student organization in any school. We think that the Education Ministry is trying to ban all student movements. Since the National Institute is one of the oldest schools to have student movements and federations, the ministry is claiming that the students there were promoting street disorders...[changes thought] but the repressive measures have stemmed from the Education Ministry. [end recording]

The student added that the Rubiano students will stay in the streets until the National Institute is reopened.

Right now, we are at the Tumba Muerto Highway, across the street from the National Brewery Company. From here we can see that students of the schools of law and architecture and the Technological University are clashing with riot police. They are throwing rocks at riot policemen who have assumed positions on the pedestrian bridge over the Transisthmian Highway and Manuel Espinoza Batista Avenue.

Communique Gives Details

PA2308195490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Aug 90 pp 1, A-2

["Press communique" issued by the National Police in Panama City on 22 August]

[Text] This morning, 22 August, students of the National Institute staged a demonstration near Martires Avenue to protest the Supreme Court decision on the case of the expulsion of five students some weeks ago. In an aggressive manner, the demonstrators closed the avenue and streets near the school, throwing rocks, Molotov cocktails, and other objects at passersby. At the request of the education authorities and the governor of Panama Province, the crowd control unit of the National Police asked the students blocking the avenue to leave. Many of the students agreed to move from the avenue. However, one group resisted, continuing to block the avenue and to throw rocks at the police, some of whom were hit. School chairs were thrown through windows to the street. A group of demonstrators began to vandalize businesses in the area, including the Napoli restaurant and nearby stores. They also damaged private vehicles in the area.

In view of this situation, the Crowd Control unit proceeded to clear the street, using tear gas and firing shotguns in the air.

Seven students were wounded by shotgun pellets during the incidents:
1. Alcibiades Rosas—15 years old
2. Ricardo Elcock—15
3. Anel Gomez Gonzalez—16
4. Yamiree Herrera—16
5. Guillermo Vega—16
6. Antonio Krisko—14
7. Itzel Bocaranda—14

Six of the students have been released from the hospital, and one student, Anel Gomez Gonzalez, remains hospitalized.

At the same time, the Transisthmian Highway near the University of Panama was closed by university students in support of the National Institute students. In a hostile action, the university students threw rocks and sharp objects at the passing cars.

Students, Police Begin Withdrawing

PA2308202390 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1934 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Report by Roberto Cubillas]

[Text] A Panama University FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front] student leader, who asked not to be

identified for security reasons, because the students feel that they are being pursued by the D-2, the new intelligence or state security office, commented today on the repression that has been under way at the Manuel Espinoza Batista Avenue and the Transisthmian Highway near the university. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified student leader] We totally disagree with the brutal way in which new Public Force members attacked National Institute students yesterday and are attacking students today.

We condemn these actions and hold Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon responsible for the arrest of any of our comrades. We also blame him for the injuries suffered by our comrades who were wounded in the savage repression today.

[Cubillas] The vice rector negotiated your withdrawal from the university and the departure of the riot police. What is your opinion on this?

[Student leader] What the vice rector should do is demand that Public Force members not violate the university autonomy. The Public Force should not enter the campus. Our position is peaceful. Our activity was symbolic. However, they came here to repress us with tear gas and birdshot. [end recording]

Students have begun to withdraw from the campus. The riot police are also withdrawing.

Daily Sums Up Demonstrations

PA2308180890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Aug 90 pp 1, 24

[Report by Florencio Galvez]

[Text] Fifty-five people were wounded during violent incidents on 22 August in the vicinity of the National Institute, where students and Public Force units clashed.

This figure was set by student leader Rolando Sanchez, while an official communique issued by the National Police stated that only seven students had been wounded with buckshot, six of whom had been released from the hospital. Student Anel Gomez Gonzalez, age 16, remains hospitalized, while the relatives of another student leader, Arturo Trelles, were unaware up until last night of his whereabouts.

Ricardo Elock, age 15, whose body was riddled with 80 buckshots, described the incident as one of savage repression. He then explained the events at the Eagles Nest [National Institute].

The demonstrations were supported by students—who were in Panama City—from the Abel Bravo school in Colon Province. They began at the National Institute and continued last night at the University of Panama campus when riot troops removed the barricades and other objects that had been used to block traffic. The Public Force's clean-up effort was hindered by groups despite the heavy rains that fell throughout the evening.

In response to the climate of unrest, authorities at the University of Panama suspended classes yesterday but announced that they would resume today. Professor Minerva Batista, director of Secondary Education, announced the indefinite closure of the National Institute as a preventive measure.

Yesterday's incidents caused traffic jams on the capital's main streets, angering drivers whose daily activities were affected.

Professor Batista told the media that yesterday's events were promoted by radical political groups, which have infiltrated the student groups. Similar comments were expressed by university instructors who have also referred to a "Q Plan" to destabilize the national government.

Radical members of the Revolutionary Student Front (FER-29) actively participated in yesterday's incidents. They were joined by students from the Arts and Crafts school and from several University of Panama faculties.

Thousands March To Protest Government 'Inaction'

PA2308143990 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Aug 90 p 1A

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Thousands of demonstrators, who chanted slogans such as "Endara, you chicken, the Yankees control you," have marched to protest what they described as the sequel of social problems inherited after the 20 December 1989 U.S. intervention, which took place eight months ago. They also marched to protest the inaction of the current government to answer the claims of the relatives of the victims.

The demonstrators marched from Porras Square to Cathedral Square, near the Presidential Palace, despite the warning issued by the mayor's office, which said that the opposition groups had not requested permission beforehand to hold a demonstration.

The demonstrators, followed by vehicles carrying the so-called riot police, marched through Central Avenue, where businessmen closed down their stores as a precautionary measure while demonstrators walked by. Armed civilians guarded the stores.

Regarding the turnout of the protest, it did not meet the expectations of the population. Among the participants were members of leftist university groups; relatives of the self-styled "political prisoners;" war refugees; relatives of the soldiers who died on 20 December; labor leaders; and dismissed government officials, who dressed in black as a sign of mourning.

Isabel Corro, representative of the relatives of fallen Panamanians during the attack, has said that the Panamanian Government has neither made comments nor demanded compensation from the United States. She

criticized the government for quickly condemning the Iraqi invasion of its neighbor, Kuwait, in the Persian Gulf.

Student leader Jose Wong has said that "the demonstrators are not Noriega supporters" because former General Manuel Antonio Noriega himself used antinationalistic rhetoric disguised behind patriotic slogans that twisted their real meaning and prompted the invasion.

Wong said that "no people in the world have ever applauded a foreign army like the Panamanian people did."

Hector Aleman, leader of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (Fenasep) has said that the goal of labor leaders who joined the march was to protest the dismissal of 15,000 government workers with the government's consent to impose an economic plan.

In order to neutralize the wave of dismissals, Aleman added that the labor leaders have created an organization called the Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Rescue of the Sovereignty [Comite Pro Defensa de la Patria y Rescate de la Soberania], which will demand an end of foreign intervention in Panama.

The demonstrators—bearing torches, Panamanian flags, and chanting anti-colonialism slogans—marched to Cathedral Square, where they held a rally and demanded the need to find out the number of deaths resulting from the invasion. They reiterated their decision to refuse that the 20th of each month "go by without being remembered."

Group Calls for Investigation of Attorney General

PA2408012990 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Aug 90 p 16

[Text] Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, one of the czars in the production and marketing of cocaine and other narcotics, opened a bank in Panama in 1984 to launder the profits from his dirty businesses. This bank was called the First Inter-Americas Bank, and on 5 November 1984 a stockholders' meeting was held in Cali, Colombia, during which several Panamanians were appointed directors and officers of the bank. Rogelio Cruz, the current attorney general of Panama, was appointed secretary general and director, the most sensitive position in the organization. Less than a year later, the United States' drug control agency, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) informed Panamanian authorities that the bank belonged to one of the main drug traffickers and that it was filled with dollars from drug trafficking. Panama denied it and Mario de Diego, executive director of the National Banking Commission, was bold enough to make statements in favor of the bank, and said that the charges were false.

We do not know what means the U.S. Government used, but the fact is that it proved the charges and forced the Panamanian banking authorities to close the bank. At the time of closing, the bank had several million dollars in cash in its vaults. Where did that money go? We do not know. However, we do know what court it was and who the liquidators were. Meanwhile, we have reproduced the minutes of the stockholders' meeting of the aforementioned bank and the public announcement of its dissolution. We, the free citizens who speak out against nepotism, injustice, and corruption, assert that Attorney General Rogelio Cruz cannot continue to head the nation's Attorney General's Office unless he emerges clean from an investigation into the serious accusations made by citizen Elvia Lefevre and Rodrigo Miranda. He must be separated from his office immediately. This is what the people want the Supreme Court Magistrates to do immediately, since they have the constitutional duty and, as citizens, the moral commitment to carry out an investigation.

Committee of Free Citizens Against Nepotism, Injustice, and Corruption

Group Demands Money Laundering Investigation

PA2308160890 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Aug 90 p 13

[Communique issued by the Committee of Free Citizens Against Nepotism, Injustice, and Corruption (Comite de Ciudadanos Libres Contra el Nepotismo, la Injusticia, y la Corrupcion); place and date not given]

[Text] On 12 January 1990, two members of the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] from the United States reported to Attorney General Rogelio Cruz on a huge drug money laundering activity.

Two prominent members of the DEA, detectives Keith Baudoin and Thomas Allison, testified under oath before Attorney General Rogelio Cruz Rios. They gave him a detailed account of the illegal operations carried out in bank accounts, banks, companies, and in the movement of huge sums of money flowing from the different Colombian drug cartels. The banks involved are led by Interbanco, followed by Banco Ibero Americano, Banco Cafetero, Banco Ganadero, Isthmus International Bank, Banco de Colombia, and Bipa Bank (Cayman) Ltd., which laundered over $40 million stemming from the sale of illegal drugs. Panamanian people, that is why the U.S. Government wants to put an end to our bank secrecy laws. If our country gives in, it will mean the end of the Panamanian Banking Center and our nation's ruin. Bad Panamanians have caused this embarrassing situation because of their excessive eagerness to become richer. Not only was Noriega a disgrace to this country, civilians both from the government and the opposition contributed to the tragic situation that we are experiencing right now.

We, free citizens who are speaking out against nepotism, injustice, and corruption, demand that the nation be informed if Attorney General Rogelio Cruz conducted

the investigation requested by the DEA and what sanctions were imposed on each case. Was the huge sum of money recovered? It could be used today to mitigate the unfortunate situation of the Social Security Fund, for example. This is what the people demand. Supreme Court magistrates must immediately conduct an investigation because they have a constitutional obligation; as citizens, they have the moral obligation to conduct it. We also take this opportunity to condemn a conspiracy being set up by the Attorney General's Office to eliminate EL SIGLO. We are condemning this before all world organizations that defend democracy, freedom, and justice in solidarity with this group of people's expression.

Committee of Free Citizens Against Nepotism, Injustice, and Corruption

TV Talk Show Discusses National Situation

PA2308234090 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Aug 90

["Let Us Find Solutions" talk show with Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath, Civic Crusade leader Fernando Boyd, Reverend Nestor Jaen, and Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, hosted by journalist Julio Miller, on the topic "National Situation, Feasible Alternatives"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Miller] Two fundamental documents, a pastoral letter and a report by the reconciliation commission, were recently made public. Monsignor, what remains to be done and what is the main concern of the Catholic Church in connection with the country's present situation and regarding the reports presented by the Church?

[McGrath] Julio, I believe that it is most important to understand what we—the bishops who met in an episcopal conference—seek to achieve through our document. We are not interested in posing as political experts, economists, or sociologists. Using information available to all studious Panamanians and consulting with the rank and file of the church throughout the nation, we want to present in this pastoral letter a picture that will help us to ponder the situation. We talked at length of the previous 30 years, from 1960 on, and the situation that was brought about by the recent U.S. intervention, when Noriega still ruled. In view of these very serious problems, we discussed the values at stake, which are included in the second portion of the document. Then come a number of recommendations and guidelines for debate and the search for solutions, which represent the third part of the document.

[Miller] Where would you place your fundamental recommendations, the administration of justice, and militarism?

[McGrath] Here in the general index you will see that we have covered politics, economics, the administration of justice, the media, and Panamanian human culture in general. I believe the economy and political life, which represent a good administration, are the most important topics for the people and the common good. Then we have the military problem and the reconciliation, the latter being discussed by the National Reconciliation Commission. All of this comprises what we could describe as social reconciliation. We would again work together for the common good identified with one another. These are the guidelines for following the various specific recommendations in search of a solution.

[Miller] Monsignor, in your opinion, what is not working correctly and would not allow us to implement suggestions proposed in these documents?

[McGrath] We have noted, as everyone has already observed, the delays we are confronting in our democratic system—delays in decisionmaking at all levels. However, we have also noted that it is normal and natural for this to occur because we are, in a sense, relearning how to live in a democracy. We are relearning how to participate in a democratic system, how to contribute to it with our solutions, and how to do so without creating a scandal by bickering and manipulating the media.

We can do so respecting the other man's view. In addition, the political parties have at this time focused their attention on the common good rather than on politics, which will draw greater attention later when the time for elections draws near. The parties will be able to avoid the political errors of the past, which tend to be repeated.

[Miller] Are these errors being repeated, Monsignor?

[McGrath] Certainly, it is only natural that they are. I am pointing out, however, that this must be carefully checked, because the people are passing through a very critical and difficult period. Consequently, all the necessary confidence must be inspired. Every aspect of government demands honesty and sound leadership. We spoke of this to the Legislative Assembly, the Judicial Branch, the Minister of Government and Justice, and the Prosecutor General's Office. We also spoke specifically to the president, pointing out the need for this leadership to inspire in the people a confidence difficult to acquire after years of imposed governments. Democratic leadership is required. We believe this leadership will gradually be acquired and formed. [passage omitted]

[Miller] Mr. Attorney General, judging by what we have heard around the community, apparently the people are blaming the Attorney General's Office for the slowness in the administration of justice. What is the position of your office now that eight months have passed and still no changes have taken place in public administration?

[Cruz] We must first bear in mind that the Attorney General's Office is not in charge of administering justice. The Attorney General's Office heads a public ministry, which plays a very important role in the administration of justice—conducting investigations. Once these are concluded, the public ministry, through its 116 agencies

all over the country, presents the results of the investigations to the judicial system, which is in charge of administering justice. In other words, the judicial system either condemns or acquits, as the case may be.

As for the responsibility that seems to fall on the Public Prosecutor's Office, I certainly believe that the administration of justice is vital to consolidating democracy. Justice in Panama has been the sleeping beauty of public administration since 1904. We are obviously dragging an old problem. I believe that in eight months the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judicial Branch have made significant progress in the administration of justice.

There is no longer a Public Prosecutor's Office persecuting the government's political enemies. There is now a Judicial Branch that accepts writs of habeas corpus when an agent of the Public Prosecutor's Office illegally arrests someone or when any other public official arrests or detains someone. There is now a Judicial Branch that accepts amparos of constitutional guarantees, which is a recourse granted to all people when their basic rights are violated. That is justice and that has been honored over the past eight months.

[Miller] But Mr. Attorney General, there are issues that have to do directly with you, such as people who have escaped from the country and arrest warrants that have not been carried out. What can we say to the community based on the pastoral letter?

[Cruz] As to the pastoral letter, I have a very clear response: The Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judicial Branch must be provided with the necessary resources to allow them to carry out their work. That is a recommendation of the pastoral letter that we support. We hope that this problem will be resolved, because it is impossible to demand absolute effectiveness in the administration of justice without resources. [passage omitted]

[Miller] Monsignor, the pastoral letter and report of the Reconciliation Commission agree on certain issues. One of them reads: We believe that the representatives of the various state branches must be motivated mainly by a desire to serve to avoid making mistakes of the past that include favoritism, privilege, nepotism, and influence peddling that deepen the Panamanian people's distrust of its authorities. The document states that. Is this happening now? What can we do to prevent this from taking root in the country and deepening the Panamanians' distrust?

[McGrath] I wish to distinguish between the two documents. The pastoral letter is the work of all the bishops in the conference, and it took them five months to draft it. It involved a great deal of consultation. It deals with a whole range of historical facts. It is long and it urges reading, reflection, and Christian treatment of the problems that it discusses.

We urge everyone to read it and to discuss it within their groups and families. The second document you mentioned is much more specific. President Guillermo Endara has asked me to establish a national reconciliation commission to include Father Ernesto Jaen and myself and 11 other people. We met once a week for a long time, about four months, to specifically discuss the issue of reconciliation. This necessarily involves political and socioeconomic aspects, as well. We even realized that this involves the nationality issue that we must all participate in it and its benefits.

Returning to your question, the issue of reconciliation is discussed by the two documents you mentioned. As for socioeconomic aspects, we express our opposition toward the promotion of favoritism that usually leads to privilege, nepotism, and influence peddling. There are many accusations about this, and we do not know which are true, but where there is smoke there is usually fire.

We believe that it is very important to underscore this—the need to seek the common good, especially at this moment, at all moments of politics, but more so at this moment. As for the political aspects, under letter B of the reconciliation document, we stated that the political parties must stop struggling for the so-called political spoils and call a truce to focus all their energy on achieving the country's reconciliation and reconstruction.

They have a right to seek political spoils at election time and at other such political moments, but the common good must be sought now, because there are very great tasks to complete. The divisions created by factors such as this, or worse, those aspects mentioned here under letter B, including nepotism and so on, are detrimental to the common good and the progress that Panamanians are expecting to see more of day after day.

As for the political and economic aspects and the administration of justice, we advocate the search for the common good. As for the media, we urge you reporters to fulfill your great task of encouraging the people to seek the common good. We want to motivate people to again conscientiously promote the common good for us all at the family, community, and national level. This was completely destroyed. We have gone through a period that has virtually destroyed our public and social moral values. We must bring back such values. [Passage omitted]

[Miller] Reverend, does the pastoral letter mention an urgent need, anything that you believe is not being attended to at this moment? The case of the Chorrillo neighborhood residents or those in Colon Province? Those who have been neglected?

[Jaen] I do not believe that they have been neglected. I repeat what I have already said: This is to me a good example of what I call a sort of residue. That is, this government is almost eight months old, and there are people still living in inhuman conditions. The Chorrillo refugees for example.

I believe that if there were a truly priority concern for the most needy people, the problem of El Chorrillo would have been resolved by now. There should be no refugees living under inhuman conditions at this time. What I say of El Chorrillo is equally applicable to Colon. Colon is an emergency area. I believe that Colon is a time bomb. If the Colon problem is not addressed, it could become the source of destabilization for the entire country. This is why I say that Colon should be a priority. I could also talk about the Indians.

[Miller, interrupting] San Miguelito [low-income neighborhood]?

[Jaen] Yes, San Miguelito. The mayor there has said that there will be a civil defense group because of the insecurity problem. I believe that national security and citizen safety should be the same in Punta Paitilla [an upscale neighborhood] and San Miguelito. Punta Paitilla residents can hire security guards, and banks can do the same, but not even these security guards [laughs] can protect them. However, there is no one defending the poor people of San Miguelito.

[Miller] Sometimes we do not even know the results of bank robbery investigations.

[Jaen] Yes, and the San Miguelito people.... [changes thought] The other day I was listening to a public opinion poll on the radio and I was scared, because I heard perhaps 90 percent of the callers saying that the military—not the military but the police or any group fulfilling police duties—should fire at the thieves—that is, the people want all thieves to be shot on sight. This is extremely dangerous.

[Miller] Mr. Attorney General, the two documents underscore the military issue. I read from the text: Today, most people distrust a military structure that could pose a danger to the democratic project. What is your opinion of the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], which according to some people has not undergone true changes.

[Cruz] We must remember a basic point: Justice and the law are distinguished from morals because of their coercive nature. That is, to ensure the reign of justice, force must be at the service of justice. When justice is at the service of force—as was the case in the past—arbitrariness would reign. I do not believe that we yet have a clear concept of what force should be—in the sense that it should be at the service of justice. This is essential to ensure the consolidation of democracy.

[Miller] Mr. Attorney General, there is talk that negotiations are under way between the government and the police force at the administrative and leadership levels. These are negotiations that seem to involve attitudes, such as I will do this in exchange for that, and if you do not give me that, then I will not do this. Can you tell us your view about this?

[Cruz] I do not know if this is a fact, but I feel that the existing conditions could very well lead to it. One must bear in mind that, as the bishops' letter states, the military, which seized power in 1968, was favored in the coup by the conditions that prevailed back then. Some of these conditions were the irresponsibility of some media, the weakening of political parties, and the weakening of institutions. I would say that some of these circumstances still prevail. Consequently, we cannot say that the danger of militarism has been completely eradicated. We probably changed its name and uniform, and perhaps the military has fewer weapons than before, but the causes for the prevalence of militarism are still present and they must be eliminated soon.

[Miller] To what extent do you think this kind of negotiation—the I will do this for you or increase vigilance if you give me this or that type of attitude—could increase?

[Cruz] It is a known fact that in the past—I am referring to even prior to 1968—the members of the military—originally the National Police, then the National Guard, and later, the Panama Defense Forces—were experts at creating problems. They were experts at beginning a fire so that the people would ask them for hoses to put it out. Thus, I believe that such circumstances could occur again.

[Miller] Is this happening again?

[Cruz] I cannot say it is happening.

[Miller] But conditions are being created for it?

[Cruz] The conditions for it to happen do exist.

[Miller] How do we avoid that?

[Cruz] By becoming completely certain that the Public Force is aware that it must be at the exclusive service of justice instead of the reverse.

[Miller] We will now begin to hear the conclusions of our distinguished guests. Monsignor, what does the Catholic Church suggest is the top priority right now?

[McGrath] All I want to recommend is that the proposals made in these documents be further discussed. I feel this has been a good discussion for our viewers. As I have already mentioned a couple of times, the pastoral letter is a historical, moral, and specific document on social, economic, political, and media matters. It discusses the problems we have and urges all to ponder them. It is important that we become conscientious builders of our community. This is the invitation contained in the letter. I urge everyone to try to read it. It has been written so that it will be discussed in groups and homes. It should be discussed by professionals, university students, union members, etc. [words indistinct] the Republic. This report by the National Reconciliation Commission is different in the sense that the president has asked for it. The commission was created for that. We completed our task and delivered the report. Now the report is in the

hands of the government, and it is up to the government to apply the measures we have suggested. However, this does not mean that the public should not continue to discuss it. It will be very valuable for the people to read.

[Miller] Dr. Boyd, what does the Crusade suggest is the top priority right now?

[Boyd] Perhaps there are three important things. First, the Public Force issue. We must determine soon how this organization of national security is going to operate. Second, and no less a priority, is the economic aspect. We need firm policies to guarantee the people's development and, especially, open jobs for the neediest. Third, perhaps we have to figure out what the real values of our nationalism are and what they involve.

[Miller] Thank you, Dr. Boyd. Father Jaen, it seems that these documents and the topics we analyzed here can be useful. What do you specifically propose should be done with them, because there is no use in wasting our time?

[Jaen] First, I stress the word together, which was found in the document. The pastoral letter says: Let us build Panama's future together. The word together means that there is a need for participation. All sectors must participate in the solutions of the problems that affect them. However, I would specifically suggest that, for example, in socioeconmic matters, the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry should take note of the contents of the pastoral letter and see what it can do about them. It should narrow down to specifics what the pastoral letter mentioned in general concepts. This does not mean that the ministry must obey the pastoral letter. The pastoral letter is an offer. It is an inspiration. This government proclaims that it is Christian and Catholic. Well, this is an inspiration that the church is offering. Thus, I would say that the bottom line is the participation of all. The title of it is: Let Us Build Panama's Future. Therefore, there is a need for a concerted effort through a commission that will gather, study, and analyze all of this.

[Miller] Your conclusion, Mr. Attorney General?

[Cruz] I would say that as a Panamanian, more than as a public official, I fully back the efforts by the bishops and the National Reconciliation Commission. My first recommendation would be that any Panamanian, of any age or region, should study these documents. Their suggestions must be implemented. These documents are a result of a diagnosis and an analysis. They are the product of much meditation and consultation over a period of several months. For this reason I consider them very valuable.

The rulers, the people, the media, the political parties—in sum, every Panamanian—should help to implement these recommendations, which I think are very valuable.

[Miller] The pastoral letter and the report by the National Reconciliation Commission clearly show the corrections needed by the nation. The administration of justice is too slow, and this responsibility not only falls on the Attorney General's Office, but on other offices of the Judicial Branch. The so-called political opportunities and disputes severely hurt the government and are causing serious deterioration in the level of credibility. The government must establish priorities and goals to prevent frustration and disappointment from reigning among the thousands of unemployed people in today's Panama. It can be dangerous for certain Public Force officers to try to negotiate and take advantage of the lack of vigilance that creates situations of insecurity for citizens—an insecurity they are promoting.

It is to no avail for the pastoral letter and the National Reconciliation Commission report to discuss key problems if those in charge of the decisionmaking process ignore the recommendations made in them.

Argentina

Cavallo Reviews Nation's Concerns in Mideast

PY2308191690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today on its front page, LA NACION reported that the Argentine Armed Forces are willing to participate in the Persian Gulf conflict. According to this newspaper and other press reports, some senior officers have stated that there is allegedly a consensus among Argentine officers on going to the Persian Gulf.

Asked about this, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that he does not believe Admiral Osses could have referred to a possible consensus within the Armed Forces on an issue that falls within the jurisdiction of the Argentine political leadership; namely, President Menem and his Cabinet. He said: In any case, the Armed Forces should play a merely technical, professional advisory role in this case.

Virtually denying the remarks attributed to Admiral Osses, Cavallo said: I am sure the admiral did not make those remarks.

It should be noted that Admiral Osses is the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff; it would be very significant if he made those remarks. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the situation of Arturo Ferrari, the Argentine photographer who was wounded on the Iraqi border last week, Cavallo said the Argentine Government has received an official note from the Iraqi Government stating that Ferrari is in good health; he is still under arrest, but has been authorized to leave Iraq. [passage omitted]

Cavallo also said Iraqi authorization for Argentine citizens to leave Baghdad means the Iraqi Government thinks international rules guaranteeing freedom of movement to foreigners should be applied in the case of Argentina. [passage omitted]

Julio Uriburu French, the Argentine ambassador to Saudi Arabia, has stated that operations to evacuate Argentine citizens from Iraq and Kuwait are going smoothly. He said: We will soon have something solved, at least the Argentine problem, and then we will take care of the problems of other Latin American citizens.

Uriburu said a group of eight people is already spending the night in Amman, Jordan, under the protection of Antonio Isso, the Argentine Foreign Ministry's special envoy. He declined to give details of ongoing operations in Kuwait to locate Argentine citizens. [passage omitted]

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Cavallo

PY2408023090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0122 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (DYN)—Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Ichiji Ishii met today with Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo to evaluate, among other things, the evolution of bilateral relations.

The Japanese Embassy in Buenos Aires has reported that the Japanese senator and parliamentary deputy foreign minister is on a Latin American tour and will depart for Caracas on 25 August. He made previous stops in Santo Domingo, for Joaquin Balaguer's inaugural ceremony, and Lima, and is now in Buenos Aires.

Ichiji is a member of the Chamber of Councillors, the Japanese senate, for the Liberal Democratic Party, which is currently in power.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ortiz Resigns

PY2308210690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] (DYN)—Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Ortiz de Rozas resigned yesterday citing "personal reasons." His replacement, Hector Subiza, was announced immediately.

Navy Chief Confirms Unitas Naval Maneuvers

PY2308224090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1953 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (TELAM)—Vice Admiral Jorge Ferrer, Navy chief of staff, has stressed that operation Unitas is scheduled to be carried out this year with the active participation of our Navy, despite the Persian Gulf conflict. The U.S. Atlantic Fleet and South American navies conduct these joint maneuvers each year.

In remarks to TELAM on these naval maneuvers, Ferrer noted that "up to now everything has been perfectly coordinated. In the future everything will depend on the evolution of events" in the Persian Gulf.

San Martin Faction of CGT Given Legal Status

PY2308210890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The government yesterday gave the official San Martin branch of the General Labour Confederation (CGT) a ministerial certificate granting it legal status as sole representative of the Argentine union movement.

Labour Minister Jorge Triaca said handing over the certificate was a stricly "administrative" move completely lacking in "political connotations," adding that as a Cabinet minister "I do not participate in union tussles."

The certificate—which replaces the provisional document drawn up last October following the CGT split—was received by top CGT-San Martin leaders during an AOT textile workers union plenary.

The document upholds the CGT-San Martin current four-year leadership. The entity is now also apparently entitled to the offices on Parana and Rivadavia streets and the 300,000 dollars in rent deposits made by the government since October.

CGT-San Martin Secretary-General Guerino Andreoni last night addressed a plenary of union secretary-generals in which he strongly advocated support for government policies and warned "it will take a long time" to overcome the socio-economic crisis.

"After ten months, the government has recognized this CGT," boasted Andreoni, adding: "This is not one sector's CGT but that of all workers."

The government certificate also upholds Andreoni's four-year leadership.

While the rival CGT-Azopardo put off a public reaction until today, self-styled "independent" trade unionists such as Juan Jose Zanola (bank clerks), Armando Cavalieri (shop clerks) and Diego Ibanez (oil workers) yesterday considered the government had made a "serious mistake" in recognizing only one of the two splinters.

In turn, the Buenos Aires committee of the Christian Democrat Party said President Carlos Menem deserved "an exemplary impeachment" and voiced solidarity with CGT-Azopardo leader Saul Ubaldini and all dissident union factions.

Estenssoro Named as State Oil Company Trustee

PY2308210290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] (NA)—President Carlos Menem yesterday named businessman Jose Estenssoro as the new trustee of state oil company YPF, thus replacing the post's previous chief Carlos Pierro. A communique issued by the Economy Ministry said the selection "is a clear sign...of the government's determination to deregulate the hydrocarbon industry and restructure YPF."

Dromi Indicates Possible 'Price Controls'

PY2308220890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] (DYN)—Markets and businesses were thrown into confusion yesterday when Public Works Minister Roberto Dromi indicated that he was "keen" on imposing price controls abolished by Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez last December.

The measure, which he indicated might be used as a means of slaking inflation's resurgence, was greeted with dismay by the private sector as "contrary to the liberal spirit of the government's economic policy."

But Dromi later wavered on the measure when he said that the comment had been meant "facetiously," although he maintained that the economic plan "will fail unless the consumer is protected."

And he then modified his stance once again after an emergency meeting with President Carlos Menem when, in a delicate semantic juggling act, he said that he was seeking "social control and not government control of prices."

He continued by denying that there was any animosity between him and Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez:

"This is folklore," he quipped, "I have lunch at his house once a week; he has lunch at my house too. We've been friends for years."

Dromi's equivocation followed close on the heels of an apparently major disagreement with President Carlos Menem as to whether or not to call back the companies ajudicated to take over leases on secondary oil and gas fields and to "renegotiate" lease payments in the light of the crisis in the Gulf.

Decree 1482 Cuts State Work Force, Payroll

PY2308215690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The government yesterday passed a decree drastically cutting the bloated state workforce that will reduce the number of administrative departments from 272 to 184 and cut the payroll by 40 percent.

The decree, numbered 1482, thus confirmed the government's new antibureaucracy drive disclosed last week by the public administration undersecretariat.

Under the terms of the decree, each one of the ministries must present by August 30 a blueprint of the new structure they will adopt. Initial estimates include a reduction to 29 departments for Education and Justice and Health and Social Services, 23 for Public Works, 15 for Defense, 14 for Economy and 13 for Labour.

The Presidency, is also due for a shake-up, with each Secretariat to be allowed no more than two departments. This will eliminate gross overstaffing that currently endows the Presidential spokesman alone with no less than six personal secretaries and his own "cabinet of advisers," a notoriously ineffective entity.

The decree also establishes that these adjustments will be monitored by a group of "supervisory committees" that will be set up and administered by the Presidency and the ministries. The text then states that this does not imply "the creation of new jobs."

Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde spoke out on the imminent measures, saying that the dismissals were an inevitable consequence of the government's restructuring programme. He added "we have to get somewhere with these ideas."

Bolivia

Paz Says Gulf Conflict Financially 'Favorable'

PY2308205590 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Aug 90 p 4

[Excerpt] President Jaime Paz Zamora yesterday said that the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait is favorable for our country because it will increase the price of oil. This increase will be applied in the mathematical formula used by Argentina to pay for our gas and it will yield better dividends for our country, he added.

Noting that gas sales to Argentina will yield better dividends this month and the coming months, Paz Zamora said: "If I were to be small-mindedly Bolivian, the Middle East problem suits us well."

Before travelling to Brazil, the chief of state pointed out that in his capacity as a "citizen of the world" he is concerned over the current events. He added: "I hope they reach an agreement as soon as possible."

The president explained that the United Nations must be the forum where solutions to this problem are discussed and found in order to prevent pain and suffering on the other side of the world. [passage omitted]

Government To Bring Peasant Leaders to Trial

PY2308153490 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Guillermo Capobianco has reported that the government has decided to bring to trial peasant leaders who are proven responsible for the roadblocks that have been causing losses to the country.

The government is aware that peasants have intensified roadblock activities in the Oruro, Potosi, and Chuquisaca regions, causing economic and social losses. Minister Capobianco added that government officials will be urged to identify those who incite peasants to block roads. These people will then be placed at the disposal of the courts, which will charge them with damaging public property.

According to Capobianco, the roadblocks have been upsetting people, particularly those living in the three regions where the number of roadblocks have increased. He said that blocking highways or railroads is reason enough for trials.

Incited by the National Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers, peasants have staged a series of radical acts, including paralyzing the movement of all vehicles and trains. Extremely upset, Capobianco said that within the framework of the law, the executive branch has decided to ensure free road and railroad traffic, which is a right granted by the Constitution.

Peasants Intensify Pressure

PY2408003590 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1828 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] La Paz, 23 Aug (AFP)—Several hundred peasants from the Departments of Chuquisaca and Potosi, in southeast Bolivia, have intensified blocks on roads and railroad tracks according to official reports received here today from those areas.

The reports state that in Mariaca Station, 40 km from Sucre, the capital of Chuquisaca, local peasants dynamited the railroad track and halted a train carrying 23 foreign tourists.

According to news agency reports the tourists—21 Frenchmen and two Germans—had to continue to Sucre on foot, and they were harassed on the way by enraged peasants.

Some reports that have not been officially confirmed state that several U.S. journalists were forced by the peasants to pay $100 each to be allowed to pass a road block on the Sucre-Cochabamba road.

Officials from the National Railroad Enterprise (ENFE) have reported that the peasants ripped up 12 meters of railroad track on the Uyuni-Villazon railroad near the Argentine border, interrupting traffic in this important international track.

The local television this morning showed hundreds of peasants, together with their wives and children, placing enormous rocks on the Padilla-Sucre road, 939 km southeast of La Paz.

Meanwhile Mario Flores, secretary general of the CSUTCB [Single Trade Union Confederation of Bolivian Peasant Workers], said that the measure of pressure "will continue to the bitter end despite the threat of military intervention" announced today by a high ranking military officer.

Bolivian Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Jorge Moreira warned: "Not only uniformed troops, but also groups of workers will be sent to repair the damaged roads."

The measure of pressure, which began on 20 August, was organized by the CSUTCB demanding compliance with several petitions made to President Jaime Paz Zamora's administration in October 1989.

One of the main social economic proposals put forward by the CSUTCB, which claims to represent 3.8 million Bolivian peasants, is that military troops must not intervene in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The CSUTCB also demands the abolition of rural taxes, respect for peasant settlements, pardons for penal and judicial interests for peasants affected by the drought, and the granting of land to Indians in the Bolivian Amazon region, who are being displaced from their natural areas by lumber companies.

FELCN Halts Processing of 40 Tons of Cocaine

PY2308185990 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Aug 90 p 6

[Text] General Lucio Anez, chief of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN), reported on 16 August that the processing of more than 40 tons of pure cocaine has been prevented over the past year in Bolivia because the Antinarcotics Forces have destroyed the chemicals required to process that amount.

During a series of FELCN-sponsored conferences on drugs, Anez reported that 1,500 raids have been conducted during which the chemicals were destroyed.

Anez said: "Our forces destroyed 1,054 drug factories, 2,113 maceration pits, and 14 laboratories where cocaine was crystallized during the successful raids. The unsuccessful raids are not included." Anez added that 829 drug traffickers were arrested during these operations, of which 291 were placed at the disposal of the courts.

Anez also reported that they have seized 10.7 tons of cocaine paste and 300 kg of cocaine hydrochloride (pure cocaine)—the equivalent to 5.6 tons of crystallized cocaine.

This last figure contradicts President Paz Zamora's speech to Congress on 6 August. Paz Zamora said that the Antidrug Forces seized 11 tons of crystallized cocaine during the 1989-1990 term.

Anez also reported that the number of Umopar [Mobile Units for Rural Areas] troops has increased by 30 percent in the past few months.

According to official figures prior to the recent increase, included in the 1,200 men who conduct operations under the FELCN leadership were a total of 648 Umopar soldiers.

Brazil

Problem of Citizens in Iraq Almost Solved

PY2308185290 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The problem of Brazilians who were being kept in Iraq to comply with the terms of their work contracts has been solved. Itamaraty has alternatives for withdrawing them from Iraqi territory.

According to the last reports received by Itamaraty, 15 more Brazilians in Iraq have obtained visas to leave that country. Although still concerned about the closing of the Jordanian border, Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek said that Brazilians have other ways of leaving the country, including across the Turkish border. In Rezek's opinion, however, the worst problem to be solved is the delay in granting visas. Even the Mendes Junior Company problems with the Iraqi Government are practically solved.

[Begin recording] [Rezek] Fortunately for us, the theory that the contract prevents the concession of visas is not being enforced.

[Reporter] Will the closing of the Jordanian border make it more difficult for the Brazilians to leave Iraq?

[Rezek] Yes, this recent decision makes solving the problem more difficult. The Jordanian border was better for us in view of the proximity of the Mendes Junior encampment. The situation of foreigners, especially that of the Brazilians, is a problem that seems about to be entirely, and satisfactorily, solved. [end recording]

Role of Citizens in Iraqi Weapons Systems 'Hazy'

PY2408000690 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Aug 90 p 10

[Report by Roberto Godoy]

[Text] Brazil has never manufactured mass-produced missiles and has therefore never exported any kind of missile. The ballistic weapons that Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc. has sold to Iraq are aerodynamically stabilized unguided rockets that are used for saturation fire. Without electronic guidance systems they are limited to the trajectory set by the Astros-II launching ramp.

The participation of Brazilian experts in the Iraqi development program is also a hazy subject. Just over 20 experts are working on Saddam Husayn's war effort. They are engaged in a project to lengthen the range of Soviet Scud-D missiles with auxiliary motors; in the integration of the internal systems of the Adnan-I airplane, or AWACs, a system for advanced warning and airspace control; and possibly on an engineering solution for a light self-defense missile for jet fighters.

The Brazilians became involved in the programs in two ways, either hired by Brigadier Hugo de Oliveira Piva or on their own initiative. Some Brazilians have learned that French engineers are regularly working on Iraqi projects.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Gives Overview of Conflict

PY2308232690 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Aug 90 p 12

[Text] Deposed by Iraqi troops on 2 August, Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of Kuwait has organized a government in exile in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, and implemented a diplomatic offensive aimed at forcing the invading troops to withdraw from Kuwait.

Beginning this week, several members of the Al-Sabah family will tour European countries carrying a personal message from the amir, thanking those countries for their support for Kuwait. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has been entrusted with the most difficult mission: obtaining the support of governments which have been reticent on the Iraqi invasion or have not automatically aligned with Kuwait.

"In general, this diplomatic offensive is very easy because our cause is just," Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brazil Faisal R. al-Ghais has stated. Al-Ghais visited the offices of O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO yesterday and was received by Director Julio de Mesquita Neto.

Al-Ghais believes that the possibility of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis is minimal if not nonexistent. "Husayn is heading toward war and he wants a war," the 45-year old ambassador said. He has been heading the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission in Brasilia for the past four years.

According to the Kuwaiti ambassador, Husayn's tactics consist of transforming the invasion of Kuwait, "the reason behind everything," into a war of Iraq against the United States.

Another possibility admitted by the ambassador could be the involvement of Israel in the crisis following an Iraqi aggression "In that case no one would be thinking about the invasion of Kuwait but rather a war of the Arabs against Israel," said al-Ghais, who speaks Portuguese with a strong Arab accent.

The ambassador confirmed the existence of armed actions against Iraqi troops in Kuwait but could not report on the number of persons involved in the Kuwaiti resistance.

According to the ambassador, reports from Riyadh state that at least 3,000 Kuwaiti citizens have died since 2 August, including 1800 soldiers from the National Guard. The rest were mostly civilians.

Faisal al-Ghais reported on endless atrocities allegedly committed by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait. "Several residences were invaded, and Kuwaiti and foreign women were raped," he said.

U.S., France, U.K. Boycotting Space Program

PY2308161290 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Aug 90 p 18

[Report by Jose Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Text] According to Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) sources, the U.S., French, and British Governments are openly boycotting the Brazilian space program and have ordered an embargo on some items, including parts manufactured in Brazil and sent to the United States for final thermal insulation. The boycott is based on an agreement signed in 1987 by the seven developed nations to prevent the export of sensitive material that can be used to manufacture missiles.

Contracts on the embargoed items were signed with private companies, and the Brazilian Aeronautics Ministry provided them with guarantees that the items would be used only in mounting the Satellite Launching Vehicle (VLS), which is being developed by the CTA. The Brazilian Government also signed end user certificates to guarantee that the items would not be reexported to a third country. The embargo will cause more delays in the Brazilian space program and will prevent the VLS from being assembled by 1993.

Colonel Roberto Kessel, director of the CTA Institute for Research and Development, believes the boycott was not prompted by either political or military reasons. In his opinion, the developed countries are seeking to prevent the entrance of new competitors in the market of services for space technology. He believes Brazil could collect between $8 and $10 million per launch at the Alcantara Base in Maranhao State, which has a privileged location near the equator, while foreign rocket launchers would charge more than $20 million.

The most serious boycott was ordered by the U.S. Government 30 days ago. This action has resulted in the confiscation of a set of parts, supplies, tools, and machinery belonging to the CTA. It consists of nine pieces valued at more than $300,000, most of which were manufactured in Brazil and sent to Lindberg Industries in Los Angeles for heat insulation. The package includes four pipes—one meter in diameter and six meters long—for the first stage of the VLS; one pipe of the same size for the second stage; and two four-meter long pipes that would be used for mounting the Sonda-4 rocket.

The pipes are made of 300M-type [as published] steel, which is highly resistant. Because of their large size, there are no facilities in the country capable of insulating these pipes against heat so that they can resist high temperatures. Lindberg Industries provided similar services in the past by insulating pipes used by the Sonda-4 rockets already launched by Brazil. The pipes are being held by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The CTA and the Foreign Ministry have unsuccessfully contacted the governments that ordered the boycott. The most recent contacts were with U.S. Air Force Major General Robert D. Eaglet, who promised to try to obtain the release of these parts.

The current stage of embargoes began last year when Great Britain prevented the Royal Ordnance Company from delivering a number of supplies the CTA needed for setting up the booster system to disengage VLS stages. Another serious boycott was ordered by France, which banned the sale of an inertial guidance platform; that is, an automatic pilot device for the flight and an altitude control system for the rocket.

Companies Charged With Violating Competition Law

PY2308171690 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Report by Carlos Alberto]

[Text] The Law for the Defense of Free Competition, which has been in force since the beginning of August, has been applied for the first time to five [as heard]

companies. These companies abusively increased their prices, and will now have to justify the increases to the Justice Ministry.

(Jose Delchiaro), national secretary for economic defense, explained that the government is no longer controlling prices, although it will not allow companies to abuse this freedom.

[Begin (Delchiaro) recording] Prices are no longer being controlled, but businessmen have a social duty to society as a whole. The lifting of price controls does not allow businessmen to harm society by abusively increasing the price of their products. [end recording]

(Delchiaro) named the companies that have increased their prices between 30 percent in July and 126 percent from March to August.

[Begin (Delchiaro) recording] (Belquimica) increased the price of its (Voranol) product; Eternit S.A., which manufactures asbestos and fiber tiles; Sicom S.A. and Brasmotor, which manufacture sealed compressors for refrigeration; Rhodia, which manufactures the nylon sun [as heard]; and Refinadora de Milho Brazil, which produces mayonnaise. [end recording]

(Delchiaro) explained that if these companies do not justify the increases, they will be formally notified by the courts and an administrative case will be filed against them at the National Department for Economic Defense and Protection.

Decree Establishes Privatization Program Priority

PY2308223790 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Aug 90 p 14

["Text" of government decree establishing priorities for National Privatization Program and appointing the agency for managing the National Privatization Fund]

[Text] The President of the Republic, using the rights conferred on him under Article 84, Clause IV, of the Constitution and considering Law 8031 of 12 April 1990 decrees:

Article 1. In order to implement the National Privatization Program approved by Law 8031 of 12 April 1990, the Directorate Commission will give priority to the evaluation of iron and steel, petrochemical, and fertilizing companies in which the central government has capital directly or indirectly invested.

1. The evaluations and studies of those business sectors will be directly carried out by the agency in charge of managing the National Privatization Fund or through contracts with third parties based on the deliberations of the Directorate Commission of the National Privatization Program.

2. The Directorate Commission will guide the works referred in this article taking into consideration the country's industrial policy and aiming to include specific industries in the National Privatization Program.

Article 2. The following companies are hereby included in the National Privatization Program in accordance with Law 8031 of 12 April 1990:

I. The Iron and Steel Company of the Northeast, Cosinor. II. The Piratini Special Steel Corporation. III. The Iron and Steel Company of Tubarao, CST. IV. The Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills Corporation, Usiminas.

V. The Mechanical Usiminas Corporation. VI. The Mafersa Corporation. VII. The Petrochemical Company of the South, Copesul. VIII. The capital stock of Petrobras Chemical Corporation, Petroquisa, invested in second generation companies which make up the Triunfo Petrochemical Complex. IX. The capital stock of Petrobras Chemical Corporation, Petroquisa, invested in the Petrochemical Company of the Northeast, Copene. X. The capital stock of Petrobras Chemical Corporation, Petroquisa, invested in the second generation companies which make up the Camari Petrochemical complex. XI. The Santa Catarina Carbochemical Industry Corporation, ICC. XII. The Goias Fertilizer Corporation. XIII. The Caraiba Minerals Limited Liability Company.

Article 3. All shares owned by the Federal Government, or by federal public administration organizations, in the companies listed from I through XII above will be deposited in the National Privatization Fund within five days following the publication of this decree (Law No. 8,031 of 1990, Article 10).

Single paragraph. The public administration organization holding capital stocks in the company mentioned in Section XIII of Article 2 will give a power of attorney to the National Privatization Fund to surrender or to transfer these stocks under the terms approved by the Directorate Commission of the National Privatization Program, as well as to sign the legal papers for the sale of stocks and to amend the bylaws of the company.

Article 4. The National Bank for Economic and Social Development, BNDES, is hereby designated as the agent for the National Privatization Program, instituted under Article 9 of Law No. 8,031 of 1990.

Article 5. This decree will go into effect on the day of its publication.

Brasilia, August 1990; 169th anniversary of the independence and 102d anniversary of the Republic.

Chile

Correa on Kennedy Amendment, Grape Issue, Gulf

PY2308214490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The government said today that the U.S. decision to maintain the Kennedy amendment, which prevents

the sale of U.S. weapons to Chile because of human right problems, is anachronistic. This comment was made by Government Secretary General Enrique Correa after a Cabinet meeting held this morning to evaluate Chilean foreign policy.

[Begin Correa recording] We believe, the government firmly believes, that the Kennedy amendment should have already been lifted, because we are a democratic country where the state of law and respect for human rights prevail. No one should doubt the government's interest in fully clarifying the murder of Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Moffit. We therefore believe that an amendment which restricts relations between Chile and the United States at this time is anachronistic. We hope the amendment will soon be lifted. [end recording]

Enrique Correa said that Chile will soon be reinserted into the Generalized System of Preferences. He also noted that there will be progress made before the end of this year in the investigation of the murder of Orlando Letelier in Washington to facilitate the lifting of the Kennedy amendment.

Correa indicated that it seems to be clear that the poisoning of Chilean grapes last year was carried out in U.S. laboratories. He made this comment in reference to President Aylwin's decision to assign the State Defense Council to investigate this case.

[Begin Correa recording] It seems to be quite clear that the grapes were not poisoned in Chilean territory, on the way to the United States, or even in the U.S. port, but possibly in the lab where the grapes were checked. An investigation is being carried out to find out if the grapes were poisoned through negligence or on purpose, against our exports [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Enrique Correa also reported that Chile was officially invited to join the Group of Eight and that President Patricio Aylwin will visit Caracas, Venezuela, 9-11 October to have Chile officially join that organization.

Regarding the Persian Gulf conflict, Correa said that the government will continue to make efforts toward the reestablishment of peace in that region on the basis of restoring the sovereign rights of the states involved. Regarding the possibility of sending Chilean troops to that region, Correa said that the final decision on this issue is up to the president.

Foreign Ministry Official Reviews U.S. Ties

PY2308151890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Report by Antonio Cofre from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Edmundo Vargas, Foreign Ministry under secretary, has said that Chilean interests with regard to the United States are protected better than ever. He was also optimistic that existing obstacles with that country will be removed.

[Begin Vargas recording] We will gradually remove the existing obstacles, some of which specifically involve Chile. Some of these obstacles do not involve Chile, but are affecting Chile. This is behind the efforts of Chilean diplomacy, which is coordinating interests and is receiving the support of the people involved: businessmen, exporters, trade union leaders—all Chileans. All Chileans want the country to be reinstated in the international community, to have normal relations with the United States—which we are achieving— and to be a respected, beautiful country. This is what we want, and this is what we are working on. [end recording]

Discussing market orders that were recently approved by the U.S. Senate for our country's fruit exports to the North American market, Edmundo Vargas said that the U.S. agricultural law is not aimed at Chile. Marketing orders involve a number of quality requirements for our products.

Edmundo Vargas said that the agricultural law is very important for the United States and involves the agriculture of the 50 states.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary emphasized that our relations with the United States, which have been very poor, are gradually improving, in keeping with better protection of our interests.

Edmundo Vargas said finally that at this moment, there is no deputy, senator, or White House man who is thinking of drawing up legislation against Chile as happened during the past government.

Political Party Office, Mormon Church Bombed

PY2308194490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Report by Rene Zigli]

[Text] Following a terrorist attack last night against the National Renewal Party [PRN] headquarters located at 2900 Dure Almeyda Avenue in Nunoa District, two of four PRN militants who sustained minor injuries are recovering. These people have been identified as Barbara Zurita and Erika Elizalde.

Tatiana Contreras and Sergio Pacheco sustained minor injuries and acoustic trauma. After receiving care at a hospital, they were able to return to their homes.

A powerful explosive device was detonated near a window of the PRN headquarters where a militants' meeting was being held.

After the explosion, members of the terrorist group that perpetrated the attack distributed several fliers in which they identified themselves as members of the Roberto Nordenflycht Commando of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR].

Other attacks were perpetrated in the same district. A few minutes later, a Mormon Church located at 1141 Los

Salvavidas Street was attacked. Church property and furniture was damaged. Minor property damage and broken glass was reported in neighboring houses.

A third explosive device was planted and activated on Grecia Avenue, between Los Jardines and Juan Moya Streets. The explosive charge and detonator were planted at the base of a monument erected to pay homage to Osvaldo Hiriart, a former interior minister during the government of President Juan Antonio Rios and the father of Mrs. Lucia Hiriart de Pinochet, the Army commander in chief's wife.

The bomb did not explode due to faulty blasting cord which went out before the initiator was reached.

Special Police Operations Group, GOPE, personnel had to go to the site to defuse the device.

GNP Growth During First-Half of 1990 Reported

PY2408015690 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Summary] The Central Bank has reported that the GNP grew by 2.6 percent during the first half of 1990.

Colombia

Article Views Outcome of Barry Drug Trial

PA2408002790 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Aug 90 p 5A

[Article by Francisco Santos C.]

[Text] What a psychological blow to the presumed war against drug trafficking was the verdict handed down by the jury to Washington's Mayor Barry—a maximum one year in jail for drug possession. This sentence, besides virtually removing the threat of prison, sends a message to the millions of U.S. consumers—you can continue "being a junkie," and nothing will happen to you.

It is not morally acceptable for thousands of innocent Colombian men and women to die in that "war," while in the United States those who pay for their habit with dollars of death, are given a few slaps on the wrist. In turn, those dollars of death pay the killers who put bombs in supermarkets and on planes, and who kill judges, journalists, policemen, soldiers, and presidential candidates.

Unquestionably the war against drug trafficking should be carried out without any indulgence, as this is strictly a Colombian issue and the solution is in our hands. However, considering Barry's case, and that we are five days before the one year anniversary of Luis Carlos Galan's murder, it is well worth asking if the war against drugs should be waged in our country.

What benefit has this "war" brought to Colombia? What benefit has it brought to the United States? What is the level of commitment by the U.S. Government—the principal drug-consuming nation in the world? Have we passed from rhetoric to action?

The war against drugs has undoubtedly benefited the President of the United States. His trip to Cartagena put him in the spotlight and was beneficial in terms of his public image. But, weighing what Colombia has received in exchange against what it has lost, the balance is overwhelmingly negative.

None of the offers made a few months ago by President Bush to President Barco have materialized. As President Gaviria stated well in his inaugural speech, "We are waiting for the developments stemming from the Cartagena Declaration.... We are also waiting for the presentation of the draft law mentioned by President Bush with regard to a special tariff and preferential treatment for exports from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador."

The truth is, only Colombia has faced this one-sided war.

First, we have extradited money launderers—a crime that the U.S. justice system pursues with obsession—who are never sentenced to less than 10 years in jail. Second, the principal players in the Medellin Cartel such as "El Mexicano" [Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha], Carlos Lehder, Gustavo Gaviria, and Pinina [John Jairo Arias Tascon] have been gunned down or extradited. Third, Pablo Escobar, despite the power displayed when he abruptly halted the murder of policemen, is weakened. Fourth, the other drug traffickers—with the exception of those in Cali—are not living so placidy and are "on the move," knowing that if they are arrested "the price they will have to pay is not the usual price." Fifth, the state has shown drug traffickers that it is not as weak as they thought and can deal out heavy blows when it so decides, despite the high cost that this represents to Colombian society.

Meanwhile, what has the United States done against drug abuse, the significant money laundering at the world level, and the exports of base materials for drug production, and where is the economic aid to the economies of the coca-producing and exporting nations? The truth is, it has done very little.

Drug consumption continues at the same level. There are world-wide statistics. Some say that consumption has gone up, others that it has gone down. There is not a conclusive study as yet to reflect the true situation of demand. Nevertheless, the supply continues at the same level and prices have remained stable in a majority of U.S. cities. This suggests that the producers continue to receive the base materials without any problem and that the money laundering continues, because they have money to pay for chemicals, transportation, bribes, and all that is linked to drug trafficking.

Yes, the United States has created an agency to attack money laundering, but in face of the billion-dollar dimension of the business, its current sucess is minimal. Besides, part of the strategy that requires a hard hand by the United States has not been implemented for drug

possession and consumption. This means heavy sentences, such as vehicle confiscation, revocation of drivers' licenses, and other measures.

President Gaviria has discreetly implemented a more flexible policy toward drug trafficking while he demands specific actions by the United States. Cases such as Marion Barry's only confirm that this is the only road to follow.

Ecopetrol Increases Daily Oil Output

PA2408041190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 24 Aug 90

[Text] Bogota, 23 Aug (AFP)—Colombia has increased its daily oil production by 28,000 barrels, which will be earmarked for export as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis, a government spokesperson announced today, Thursday.

The spokesperson said that Colombia will send some 248,000 barrels to international markets in a genuine effort by the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) to contribute to overcoming the difficulties generated by the crisis.

The government spokesperson said that in two years Colombia will be able to increase its levels of production and export of crude as several oil wells in the southeastern department of Huila are placed in operation. He admitted, however, that there will be some transportation difficulties.

Colombian President Cesar Gaviria had offered to try to improve oil production levels to help to cover the world demand for crude oil.

* Proposals for Judicial Reform Reviewed

90SM0208A Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Jul 90 p 3a

[Article by EL TIEMPO editor Hernando Ramirez Santos]

[Text] By the beginning of the 21st century our country's justice system will have to be operating like the finest and most efficient piece of machinery of the future.

We have a 10-year deadline to end the impunity and inefficiency that have thwarted the work of the judicial branch. The plan is to make substantial changes in the administration of justice through a constitutional reform.

The initiative to establish the parameters for the overhaul, which will enable the government to put together a long-range development plan, is part of the Colombia 21st Century Project that Confecamaras [Confederation of Chambers of Commerce], Pro-Antioquia, and the country's chambers of commerce are carrying forward.

Leading Colombian jurists, together with several research institutes, have drafted a thorough-going analysis of the problems plaguing the administration of justice. The report is included in the text "La Justicia hacia el Siglo XXI" [Justice Towards the 21st Century], in which the authors propose an approach to ending the chaos besetting this branch of government.

According to the analysis, a proper administration of justice is absolutely essential for the country's development. Such an administration of justice does not exist in Colombia because of the many social, economic, and judicial problems that it is currently experiencing.

According to statistics from the SER [expansion unknown] research institute, one of every two Colombian families is involved in one way or another with a criminal case, and 95.5 percent of them are still in the preliminary-hearing stages. The figures show that at the moment there are 1,397,800 cases before the courts and that a municipal judge issues just 6.3 sentences a year. There are 4,600 judges at work in Colombia, and each handles 10,000 cases on the average.

This problem is compounded by the poor distribution of judicial districts in the country. To cite an example in the municipality of Bosa, which is attached to the Bogota judicial district, there are just two judges to hear more than 150,000 criminal cases in progress, plus others that are assigned to them weekly.

A study by the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI) shows that there are many reasons for the slow pace of the administration of justice, but the major ones are physical and budgetary problems. Last year the Judiciary accounted for just 2.7 percent of the national budget, with a tiny investment appropriation of 70 million pesos.

The Justice Ministry got 0.7 percent of the budget, and the Public Ministry 0.5 percent.

The low pay of judiciary officials also creates a major social conflict. The most recent salary scale sets the basic monthly pay of municipal judges at 120,000 pesos, of circuit-court judges at 150,900 pesos, of superior court magistrates at 384,000 pesos, and of Supreme Court and Council of State justices at 480,000 pesos.

The study, which looks to the future, says that the groundwork for an overhaul of the justice system was laid by the unsuccessful constitutional reform of 1979 and was later included in the 1989 reform that was ultimately scuttled by the House of Representatives.

In the view of the former chairman of the National Securities Commission and two-time cabinet minister, Hernan Echavarria Olozaga, the groundwork consists of creating a Superior Council for the Administration of Justice, which would see to it that the system operates properly.

Another new post would be that of the prosecuting attorney [fiscal general], who would be in charge of

prosecuting cases in court. This would mean shifting from a system of investigation [sistema inquisitivo] to one of charges [acusatorio], making certain changes in the Attorney General's Office, and specifying its functions more precisely.

Echavarria, who is one of the contributors to "La justicia hacia el Siglo XXI," spoke yesterday at the first forum of the Colombia 21st Century project.

Overriding Needs

Throughout its history Colombia's justice system has lacked a body to take responsibility for its efficient operation. "The Judiciary," says Echavarria, "is a conglomeration of entities, tribunals, and courts that have no administrative links."

The planned reform seeks to place a Superior Council for the Administration of Justice in charge of both manpower, through the agencies of the Judicial Career, and material resources, in other words, the budget.

A radical change is sought in the system of criminal investigation and prosecution. Under the system of investigation that is in effect today, once the criminal-investigation judge receives the case, it remains his exclusive responsibility, and no one else can handle it.

If the judge is incompetent or lazy, no one can force him to pursue the case or change the venue. Only the creation of a prosecuting attorney can solve this problem, since he would issue the indictment, monitor the progress of the case, and see to it that the judge does his job promptly.

A Single Investigator

According to Echavarria, the system of investigations that Colombia uses allows crime to go unpunished. The Executive Branch, which is supposed to keep the peace and has greater resources for conducting investigations, would have to put the prosecuting attorney in charge here and, at the same time, centralize intelligence work in a single agency. This is not the case today, as the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) and the Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate (DIJIN) operate independently.

If the next constitutional reform that is passed includes the Superior Council and the prosecuting attorney, then the functions of the Attorney General's Office will have to be changed.

Under such a reform the sole function of the Attorney General's Office would be to defend human and civil rights.

Jurist Bernardo Gaitan Mahecha has also proposed several key points that must be included in the next constitutional reform so that the justice system can meet the country's needs by the year 2000.

In order to achieve a proper regional reform of the justice system situations such as that of Puerto Boyaca in the Magdalena Medio must be done away with. This city comes under the Tunja district even though it is not close enough to and does not have the necessary communications with that capital.

Reform of Article 7 of the constitution will enable judicial districts that include municipalities from different departments to be organized as a function of regions.

Improving the Ministry

An efficient Justice Ministry is fundamental to the proper administration of justice in the 21st century. To this end it must be decentralized, and the administrative channels to transfer resources to decentralized bodies must be established.

In this way each district will have its own supplies and be able to run its judicial offices and jails better. An institution that is now rigidly centralized in Bogota will thus no longer have to send paper and pencils to the court in Pavaradoncito.

According to Gaitan, the sole tasks of the Justice Ministry will be to make overall policy for the justice system, to plan its implementation, and to encourage the decentralized bodies to provide increasingly better service in each zone.

As far as Gaitan is concerned, the administrative model of our justice system, which dates back to 1931, has gotten bogged down because the government has become altogether unable to adapt it to the needs of each succeeding period. The Justice Ministry, Gaitan says, is no longer functional and has been reduced to administering fossilized, centralized, and bureaucratized bodies that are divorced from national realities. [Box, p 3a]

Do You Believe Our Judges?

A study sponsored by the Unity for Progress Foundation asked a group of people about how credible the country's judges are. It obtained the following findings about the justice system.

In answer to the first question: Do you think that some Colombian judges allow themselves to be bought off? Of the people queried, 88 percent said yes, 6 percent no, and the other 6 percent did not say.

The second question was posed to those who answered yes to the first one: How many judges in 10 do you think allow themselves to be bought off? The average of the responses was 5.5, in other words, more than half.

The third question was: Do you think that in Colombia judges by and large apply the law equally to all citizens? The replies were: no, 85.4 percent; yes, 11.5 percent, and no response, 3.1 percent.

The last question was: On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 the highest and 1 the lowest grade, how much do you trust

judges and the justice system in Colombia? The grade they got was 4.7, which is failing.

According to the SER Research Institute, this loss of faith in the justice system is an extremely serious matter and could largely explain the social turmoil besetting the country.

Moreover, one of the basic problems with Colombia's criminal justice system has to do with investigations, in spite of the many attempts that have been made to resolve it, at least through laws.

Peru

Shining Path Kills Two Mormon Missionaries

PY2308181290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1351 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Huancayo, Peru, 23 Aug (EFE)—Shining Path terrorists killed two missionaries belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). The terrorists placed a sign on the missionaries' bodies that read: "Yankees Out." The sign alludes to the U.S. origin of the religious congregation.

The missionaries were killed last night when they went to visit a family living in Tambo District, in Huancayo, 415 km southeast of Lima.

The Shining Path terrorists shot the two Mormon missionaries in the head and left a sign on their bodies that read: "Struggle for the People's War. Yankees Out. Long Live the People's War. Communist Party of Peru," which is the Shining Path's official name.

According to the Lima National Police, the late missionaries, like other members of the Mormon congregation, had received death threats. The missionaries have been identified as Cristian Ugarte Ayaviri and Manuel Hidalgo Pena. Both of them were 21 years old.

The National Police reported today that the Shining Path also killed Andres Porras, a peasant, in San Jeronimo, eight km outside of Huancayo; and Abraham de La Cruz, a worker, in Satipo, a city in the jungle area of Junin Department.

Strike Reportedly Fails, But Violence Widespread

PY2308194390 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1908 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Lima, 22 Aug (AFP)—The government reported today that only 13.4 percent of the Economically Active Population [PEA] of Peru yesterday observed the frustrated national strike, while analysts speculated that "repudiation of union leaderships" and the crises among parties that manipulate the unions has become evident.

Labor Minister Carlos Torres said that of a total of 135,165 PEA workers, only 13.4 percent observed the strike on Tuesday. Union organizations replied that 75 percent of the people nationwide observed the strike.

According to police reports, neither the Maoist Shining Path nor its "armed branch," the Revolutionary Movement for the Defense of the People, which yesterday called for an armed strike, succeeded in paralyzing the city, although they did carry out a number of attacks in Lima.

Some 12 bombs exploded in Lima killing one policeman and injuring three other people, including a boy who suffered a groin injury.

A car bomb with 25 kg of dynamite exploded around midnight when it was driven into the house of a retired admiral. A house of assignations [casa de citas] known as Five and a Half, in the industrial sector on the central highway, was attacked forcing some 50 couples to leave the place while naked.

The police reported that three supermarkets, a parish church, the offices of a sports organization and of the water supply company, an elementary school, a poor mothers club, a milk processing plant, a shoe factory, and a police station some 300 meters from the Government Palace were attacked.

Several home-made bombs were also deactivated, and at least six public transport vehicles were set on fire, but without causing casualties.

In view of the intensive subversive activity, which forced the police to detain almost 4,000 suspects in Lima, there were no picketing strikers to instigate street demonstrations.

The morning newspaper EXPRESO reported today that "if the urban transport system operated normally, the strike would not have been noticed." EXPRESO Director Manuel D'Ornellas stated that the frustrated strike shows that workers no longer support union leaders.

According to D'Ornellas, the parties and their leaders reportedly no longer enjoy the people's confidence. He attributed this loss of confidence to the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] and to the left, which called the people to the strike and to a previous march of protest that also failed.

He stated: "With every stoppage, every strike, the union leaders are going from failure to failure."

Msgr. Ricardo Durand, chairman of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, asked Peruvians to "make the necessary adjustment and to think of those who have nothing." It is not possible to demand (salary) increases if it only causes more unemployment and misery, he said.

The union organizations called the people to a strike, the first against the government of President Alberto Fujimori, 24 days after his inauguration, to demand the reduction by 50 percent of gasoline prices—which have

been increased 30 times—and greater salary increase to face the 400 to 1000 percent staples price increases that have been caused by the anti-inflationary program implemented on 8 August.

The president's wife, Susana Higushi de Fujimori, last night confirmed that the president will address the nation as soon as he concludes an evaluation of the impact of the adjustment program.

First Vice President Maximo San Roman stated: "He will address the nation before the end of this week."

Political, business, union organizations, and public opinion want the president to address the nation to explain the implementation of the anti-inflationary program and the economic shock that he denied he would implement during the electoral campaign.

$415 Million Allocated for Social Support Program

PY2308214390 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 Aug 90 p 5

[Text] Until yesterday nobody had any specific reports on whether the social support program sponsored by the government had been implemented. The program does not seek to create anything new. It seeks to strengthen the current assistance program which, according to the government, favors some four million people. The objective of this program is to double this assistance.

It has been decided that between August and December a budget equivalent to $415 million, that is some $83 million per month, will be allocated to meet this objective. The Public Treasury will provide $315 million of the $415 million and the UN will donate $100 million worth of food.

This budget will cover three main objectives: food, for which $51 million will be earmarked, health, and transport (it is understood that public transport will receive allowances).

Part of the $51 million will be designated for the school food program, which was scheduled to begin on 15 August in Lima, where about 850,000 students will benefit. This program, however, will be postponed because classes have not yet resumed.

Another part will be channeled through the Lima City Hall which is in charge of distributing the fund to the city halls of the Lima districts, which in turn distribute it to the milk program committees.

An important part of the fund is allocated to the soup kitchens through the Caritas and Care organizations.

The Confiep (Private Business Confederation) will cooperate with this program by providing management support. It has been said that new soup kitchens will be organized in several districts and that pans, stoves, and kerosene will be needed to begin the activities.

In Villa El Salvador, the best organized community, soup kitchens only benefit less than half of the people while people in the other half will now have to organize themselves.

The social support program implemented by the government does not include a fund to finance productive projects or for the construction of infrastructure facilities that can generate a large number of jobs. This was regarded as an essential topic within the Fredemo (Democratic Front) Social Support Program. That is, nothing linked to jobs has been included so far in the government program.

12 Terrorists Die in Clash With Military Patrol

PY2308173490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0453 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Lima, 22 Aug (EFE)—Today police sources reported that at least 12 members of a Shining Path terrorist column died in a clash with a military patrol in a mountain region province in Lima Department.

According to the sources, the armed clash occurred on 21 August in the village of Llanapa, in the highlands of Cajatambo Province, in the northern part of Lima Department.

Despite the fact that no major details of the incident were provided, it was reported that after the clash, the Army troops confiscated weapons used by the terrorists while the other subversives managed to flee. The police also reported today that on 21 August, several Shining Path terrorists shot to death Hugo Narvaez, leader of a community in Chupaca District, Junin Department, in the Peruvian central mountain range.

That same day, Shining Path guerrillas also dynamited a brickyard and destroyed two vehicles in the coastal town of Supe, 180 km north of Lima.

A congressional commission on political violence in Peru has reported that terrorism has claimed the lives of more than 20,000 people and damage estimated at around $18 billion since the Shining Path terrorist organization began its armed struggle in May 1980.

Uruguay

Compliance With UN Resolution on Iraq Ordered

PY2308132090 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] The Executive Branch has ordered all public organizations to comply fully with the UN Security Council resolution issued on 6 August 1990 regarding a total blockade of Iraq.

We must recall that in Law No. 10683, of December 1945, Uruguay vowed to observe the UN Charter and to comply with all of its resolutions.

Therefore, the decree signed by President Lacalle orders all government officials to adopt appropriate measures guaranteeing the effective fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolution No. 671, which imposes sanctions on the Iraqi Government.

The decree adds that all activities described in one of the provisions of the UN resolution are hereby forbidden in the national jurisdiction for a period of (?10 days).

One of the provisions imposes a number of restrictions on trade, economic, and financial relations with the country on the Persian Gulf.

Central Bank President on Debt Conversion Issue

PY2308211190 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 12 Aug 90 p 13

[Text] Central Bank President Ramon Diaz has disclosed to EL DIA that the government has ruled out the possibility of reinstating the foreign debt conversion system, which involves swapping promissory notes for bonds issued by the Central Bank. He stressed that "this is not the right time for this type of operation."

"It would represent an obstacle and a disturbing element in the negotiations that Uruguay is conducting with the international creditor banks," said the Central Bank president, who also denied that there is an opening in the Central Bank foreign exchange policies.

"We will not report on the foreign exchange market projections," pointed out Diaz after stating that the dollar exchange rate fluctuations "are within the economic team projections" and that "the equidistant par value [paridad equidistante] conforms to the financial program projections."

The Central Bank president also stressed that the transactions that are currently being carried out with Treasury Bonds "do not increase the debt." He added that their level of acceptance on the market is favorable, for which reason "we are renewing them" in accordance with our possibilities.

In conclusion, the Central Bank president believed that the adjustment of salaries and public enterprise rates announced for 1 September will "not have a very significant" impact on the inflation rate foreseen by the government.

Defense Ministry Denies Reports of Unrest

PY2308142690 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Aug 90 p 7

[From the "Cabos Sueltos" column]

[Text] The Defense Ministry has officially denied rumors of possible unrest within the Armed Forces as a result of the Supreme Court decision to pardon a high-ranking officer who had been condemned by the Military Justice.

In reply to a report published in a morning newspaper on 12 August, the Defense Ministry issued a brief communique to deny this rumor.

Venezuela

Perez To Meet With OPEC Committee in Vienna

PA2308232590 Paris AFP in Spanish 2133 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Caracas, 23 Aug (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez confirmed today that he will meet with the OPEC Consultative Committee in Vienna on Sunday. He left open the possibility of holding an extraordinary conference, noting that a seventh member country had agreed to such a meeting being held.

Until now Venezuela and Saudi Arabia had failed in their efforts to hold an extraordinary meeting. At least seven of the 13 member countries, the indispensable minimum to call the meeting, have now given a green light to holding an OPEC extraordinary conference to authorize increases in production quotas.

Perez noted time and again that in view of the crisis unleashed following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, OPEC is holding in reserve 4 million barrels of its estimated production of 22.5 million barrels daily.

At a meeting with reporters in the Miraflores Palace (government headquarters), Perez responded with a laconic "yes" when reporters asked him if a seventh OPEC member country was in agreement.

When a reporter asked him for the name of the country, he said: "I cannot say at this time, but we did receive another approval."

He added: "On Sunday there will be a meeting of the OPEC Consultative Committee countries, and we will find out where we stand. Then, according to the decisions adopted by OPEC, we will subsequently move to guarantee the world oil supply."

Increase in Petroleum Production Authorized

PA2408022290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2324 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Text] Caracas, 23 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas has reported that the Venezuelan Government today approved a provisional increase in petroleum production of 350,000 barrels per day.

Before a congressional commission, Armas said that production would increase in September by 350,000 barrels and by December the increase will have reached 500,000, the amount that President Carlos Andres Perez has offered to the United States.

He pointed out that this decision was reached "to prevent a violent upsurge in prices at this time; prices are expected to return to previous levels once the situation is normalized."

Venezuela currently produces 1.945 million barrels per day and, with this increase, its production will be 2.445 million by December.

Armas added that Venezuela would receive additional revenues of between $1.2 and $2.4 billion for the balance of the year should the price of a barrel of crude increase by $1.

He pointed out that if such revenue increases actually materialize, they will not be used for regular expenditures or to pay off the foreign debt, but a nationwide consultation will be conducted to determine how to spend it.

He confirmed that members of OPEC's Oversight Subcommittee would meet on 26 August in Vienna.

Foreign Minister Reports on Trip to Middle East

PA2308174290 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 23 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo and Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas have been received by the Standing Congressional Committee [Comision Delegada del Congreso] to discuss oil matters. They talked about the reasons for and the results of the foreign minister's trip to Nigeria, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, where he discussed all matters pertaining to the crisis in the Persian Gulf and a possible increase in oil prices on the world market.

[Begin Figueredo recording, in progress]... to expand on Venezuela's views about the implications of this crisis, the talks we had held—particulary with the U.S. Government—and the inquiries that were reaching both the Venezuelan oil industry and the Energy and Mines Ministry itself with regard to Venezuela's position about the crisis. [end recording]

In addition, the Standing Congressional Committee authorized the executive branch to sign provisionally the protocol by which our country will join the GATT. The motion, which was filed by the president of the commission, Senator David Morales Bello, was approved by consensus by all political currents represented at the committee and complied with stipulations of Article 128 of the National Constitution.

The provisional authority was granted because this matter is important for Venezuela's interests. The final stage of the multilateral round of talks will be held between September and December in Uruguay and it will be open only to signers of the GATT. It is necessary for Venezuela to join this protocol to be able to enjoy its benefits.

Guyana

Soldiers Serving in Trinidad To Return by 31 Aug

FL2208174690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1647 GMT 22 Aug 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Aug 22, CANA—Guyana says it expects the 40-man contingent of soldiers it sent to help restore order in neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago this month to be home by August 31. The official Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) gave the deadline on Tuesday.

The Guyanese soldiers flew to Port of Spain nearly three weeks ago at the request of the Trinidad and Tobago Government following an attempted coup and hostage-taking crisis there.

Contingents from Barbados and Jamaica were also sent to the twin island Republic to help the Trinidad and Tobago regiment maintain law and order. They are all based at the St. Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies under the command of Colonel Errol Maynard of Barbados.

GPCA reported that while the original contingents from Barbados and Jamaica have been replaced by new personnel from these two countries, Guyana's original team will stay until the end of the month.